

# STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 27, 2014

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## A Team tousle

Support from soldiers has gone to his Ed

Page 5



## Animal magic

Muriel visits the zoo more than 2,000 times

Page 6



## Star shots

Unique snaps relive the rock 'n' roll years

Page 8



## Academy is put in to special measures

AN ACADEMY has been put into special measures after inspectors said some standards were 'well below' national levels after it converted from a school.

Just four years ago High Arcal School, in Sedgley, was classed as an 'outstanding' school, led by superhead Jo Manson.

The academy, in High Arcal Drive, was held up to be a role model for others and supported failing schools. It converted into an academy in December 2011 but Ofsted said standards had plummeted.

Mrs Manson has hit back saying High Arcal was better than the inspection suggests and that inspectors failed to look beyond exam results to its important community role.

More than 1,200 pupils are taught at the academy, which is now subject to regular monitoring by Ofsted inspectors.

Inspector Elizabeth Cooper lead a team of five on a visit to High Arcal in December and found pupils' achievements, the quality of teaching, the leadership and management inadequate.

Mrs Manson said: "I'm very confident the standard of education we're providing is already much better than the inspection suggests. We are making real progress."

## College gets a new boss

A SENIOR transport boss has been chosen to take over one of the West Midlands's biggest colleges.

Andrew Cleaves, a National Express senior executive, will step into the shoes of Dame Christine Braddock DBE, at Birmingham Metropolitan College from May, to become its new principal and chief executive.

Dame Christine had presided over Birmingham Metropolitan College's takeover of Stourbridge College and built up its reputation for working with business.

# FREE PARKING AT MERRY HILL VOW

**THE new owners of Merry Hill shopping centre have pledged to keep free car parking.**

That could lead to a row with Dudley Council, which has made it clear it will not permit any expansion of Merry Hill without parking charges being imposed.

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks said: "If there is to be an expansion of Merry Hill beyond its existing planning permits then charges have to be introduced."

But Mike Butterworth, chief operating officer of new owners Intu, said: "We are committed to maintaining that free car parking. It's very important to the centre that we make it easy for people to get there and free parking is part of that."

### Ambitious

It currently offers 10,000 free spaces at the Brierley Hill mall complex.

Property firm Intu will run Merry Hill after buying the half share previously owned by Westfield for £407.7 million last week. It has ambitious plans to increase leisure and restaurant facilities to make Merry Hill more of a family day out destination.

After spending his early years in and around Wolverhampton, Mr Butterworth is no stranger to the Black Country and the Merry Hill centre.

But he is aware that Intu has a job ahead of it to bring Merry Hill up to the standard of the UK's top shopping centres.

"I used to live in Wolverhampton so I've become pretty familiar with Merry Hill over the years. I think it's certainly true that Merry Hill used to be better than it is today."

### Report by Andrew Turton

"I think there are things that can be done to the leisure and catering areas to make it a lot more attractive as a family day out, which is what we are after."

"We see Merry Hill as joining a stable that includes the Trafford Centre, Lakeside in West Thurrock, Sheffield's Metro Centre."

He added: "It is early days yet, and we are still working out the details but talking to the council is the first thing on our list, followed by the retailers."

Meanwhile, parking spaces will be created in Dudley town centre following demands from traders.

The former Stone Street car park was transformed into a public square a decade ago in an £800,000 project but traders have long called for the return of spaces in that part of town, saying footfall has suffered.

The council has announced plans for 10 new on-street parking spaces adjacent to Stone Street Square.

That comes just a few weeks after the council announced it will borrow money to build a £2.5 million multi-storey car park with 250 spaces in nearby Tower Street.

## All the world's a stage for pupils



Actor David Baker brings Shakespeare to pupils at Glynne Primary School in Kingswinford

THE works of William Shakespeare have inspired pupils to take to the stage and dress as characters from his plays.

Children from Glynne Primary School, Kingswinford, have been getting to grips with the plays of the world's best known bard with the help of London based theatre group West End Productions.

The day-long workshop at the school in Cot Lane was part of a national government backed scheme to get children more involved with his work from an early age and was held during a week-long celebration of the playwright.

### Confidence

Deputy headteacher Tracy Powell said: "I think it's really important that the work of one of Britain's greatest is taught from a young age in school. It's given the children a lot of confidence and helped given them a greater understanding of history and improved their English."

Actor David Baker, a member of the production company, taught the pupils from years five and six about Shakespeare's works and taught them to perform scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream. They even had an opportunity to dress up as some of the characters including the bewitched donkey-headed fool, Bottom.

"Drama is an excellent tool for bringing people out of their shell," said Mrs Powell.

## Scheme to build 80 homes near canal

UP TO 80 homes could be built on the edge of Stourbridge town centre after outline proposals were submitted to planners.

Quadrant Land Partnership wants permission to create the development on land at Lowndes Road and Bradley Road, near Stourbridge canal.

Council officers have recommended outline plans be approved subject to conditions, when they are discussed by Dudley Council's development control committee on Monday.

The houses would be built on a six-hectare stretch of land near to the historic Foster and Rastrick foundry, which is being converted and refurbished into a medical centre.

Details of the layout of the development and the style of the new homes would be the subject of a further planning application in the future.

Council officials said 77 letters had been sent out to neighbouring properties.

One response has been received from Vee Bee Ltd, a company near the site. They requested information on the implications for noises at their premises, so it does not jeopardize future operations at the firm.

Part of the River Stour is within the site and would be engineered to make it a better habitat for wildlife.



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CONTENTS	
Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	8
Clubs	12
What's On	23
TV Listings	24 - 26
Puzzler	27
Property	28
Motoring	31
Sport	39 & 40

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# Boost for anti-waste site campaign

LEADERS of a campaign against a waste plant have been given a role in a planning inquiry which will decide on the controversial project.

Members of Brierley Hill SNOW (Say NO to Waste site) say the granting of full party status at the inquiry is a 'big step forward' in their campaign.

It will mean the group will be able to put their case forward to of-

ficers from the Planning Inspectorate, who will decide at the hearing in June if the waste scheme goes ahead.

## Appealed

The proposal by Clean Powers Properties is for a plant off Moor Street in Brierley Hill. The scheme was thrown out by Dudley Council, but the firm has since appealed.

Last week SNOW submitted 761 letters and a petition with 309 signatures against the plan.

They fear the proposals, if they get the go-ahead, will cause a smell and create traffic chaos. But the firm deny this and say it will create jobs

Campaign spokesman Tim Lee, 63, of Seagers Lane, said: "It's a really big step forward. We will now

be able to cross-examine Clean Power's witnesses, and to fully address the inspector.

"We believe that being allowed full party status will give us the best opportunity to present the community's case."

The campaign group is putting the finishing touches to its formal statement.

# Residents' parking permit plans scrapped

PERMIT schemes which could have seen residents paying nearly £100 a year to park on streets outside their homes has been scrapped following a wave of objections.

Dudley Council was looking to roll out the introduction of parking permits on a trial basis on streets around Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital and in Stourbridge's Old Quarter.

## Protest over closure of day centre

USERS of a mental health support service have held a protest against plans for its closure.

Dove House is based on the grounds of Dudley's Bushey Fields Hospital, which is staffed and supported by independent mental health charity Dudley Mind. The centre provides a range of day activities and also serves as a meeting place.

But earlier this month charity bosses said the service will shut from mid-May, and a new programme called Empowering Recovery In the Community will start there on June 1.

Regular users staged a protest outside the centre last Thursday. They have also organised a petition, calling for it to be kept open as it is, which they plan to hand to Dudley Council.

Drop-in facilities will continue to run at other locations, such as community centres, and peer support groups will be started. A weekly advice and support surgery is also going to be offered for people who might otherwise have raised their concerns with the drop-in staff. But current users say the proposed services will not meet their needs.

Residents have long complained about cars clogging streets outside their homes during the day and the measures were put forward as a way of tackling the problems. But a consultation carried out by the authority revealed lack of support for the scheme.

## Survey

The survey, carried out over a three-week period, showed 712 responses had been received from a possible 2,041 in Stourbridge — a return of just 35 per cent — and 85 per cent of those who responded said they would not support the scheme without a guaranteed car parking space.

In Russells Hall, 162 responses were received from a possible 721. Figures showed 59 per cent were in support of the scheme but 86 per cent would not support it without a guaranteed parking space.

When asked if they would be willing to pay for the parking permits at a cost of £95, 90 per cent of Stourbridge residents said no along with 94 per cent in Russells Hall.

Residents said the cost of the permit was too high and believed traffic calming measures would be better.

Dudley Council said the scheme would only have been introduced on a trial basis if 80 per cent or more of the residents in each area were in agreement. The authority confirmed that neither scheme would now go ahead.

## Couple celebrate 72 years



Horace and Nancy Reece celebrate their 72nd wedding anniversary at Brierley Hill

THEY were given just 48 hours to tie the knot but despite a rushed beginning to married life, Horace and Nancy Reece are now celebrating 72 happy years together.

Like many servicemen about to embark in the Second World War, Horace jumped at the chance to marry his sweetheart Nancy before heading to Burma with the Royal Marines in 1942. That gave the 21-year-old two days to propose and then marry Nancy, 19, at Dudley Register Office, before heading to the Far East.

Horace returned following service in Burma, India and Singapore and the couple set up home together in Mount Road, Worsley. The couple soon became a family with the arrival of their only son Michael.

Horace, 93, and Nancy, 91, now live at Abbeygate Care Home, Lays Road, Brierley Hill, and celebrated their anniversary with a party put on by home owner Raj Sahadew.

Horace is aged 93, while Nancy is 91. The couple have three grandchildren, Darren, aged 42, Rebecca, 35, and Leanne, 27.

# More cash going to maternity services

HOSPITALS in the Midlands are to get over £1 million to improve maternity units.

It comes after a baby boom in the region has seen health chiefs having to cope with thousands of extra births in recent years.

Russell's Hall Hospital, part of the Dudley Groups of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, will get a £41,000 to improve the care of women with mental health problems and those with sick babies or experiencing bereavement.

Other hospital trusts in the region which will receive extra funding include Birmingham Women's NHS foundation Trust which will receive £155,756 to enhance the midwife-led unit and delivery suite areas.

New Cross in Wolverhampton is receiving £12,000 to upgrade facilities which supports counselling.

A total of £10 million has been earmarked by the Government to 63 NHS trusts across the country.

Maternity Minister Dr Dan Poulter said: "Making sure families receive a good experience when having a baby in NHS maternity units is a top priority for me, as both a doctor and a health minister."

## Staff foiled shop robbery

THREE masked raiders were foiled in a robbery on a convenience shop when staff wrestled back stolen cash from them and chased them out of the Co-operative Food store in Wall Heath.

The robbers escaped by jumping into a waiting car, a silver Ford Mondeo, which then sped away. The attempted robbery took place at the store in Albion Parade just after 10am Friday.

The robbers emptied cash into a bucket, which was wrestled from them by a member of staff. Another, who tried to block their path, suffered bruising.

## Lorry fire delay

AN oil reservoir in a lorry cab burst into flames during Friday's rush hour on a busy road, causing delays. The fire started in the lorry cab on Kingswinford High Street at around 8.20am. Fire crews were sent to the scene but on arrival the fire had been extinguished.

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## Decision is due on college's crossing

A CROSSING which would be used by hundreds of college students every day has been earmarked for approval, despite concerns from residents.

Plans have been submitted by Dudley College for the piffin crossing to be installed along the The Broadway, Dudley, between the college's new Evolve campus and The Broadway campus.

### Route

Dudley Council's development control committee will discuss the scheme on Monday.

They deferred making a decision in January for more information to be gathered on the impact a crossing along the busy route.

The college wants the crossing in place to provide a safe pedestrian route for students and staff.

But 10 objections had been received from residents living nearby. They are concerned the crossing would disrupt the flow of traffic along the Broadway and say students should instead be encouraged to use existing crossings.

In a report to the committee, officers said the crossing would not have any impact on the character of the area or homes nearby.

## On track for model show

MODEL railway enthusiasts will make tracks to a an event in Stourbridge.

Stourbridge Navigation Trust and Stourbridge Railway Society will be joining forces for the town's annual Model Railway Exhibition which will be held at The Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street, Stourbridge, over the weekend of April 12 and 13. There will be around 12 layouts on show.

Admission is £3 for adults, £2 for children and OAPs, and a family ticket is available for two adults and two children priced at £9. There will also be boat trips on the canal.

## Singer in concert

HUSKY-VOICED singer/songwriter Jack Savoretti is in concert at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Monday. The 30-year-old from London featured movie star Sienna Miller on his third and latest album Before The Storm. Tickets cost £13.20. Call 0870 320 7000.

# Drinking session led to accidental death



Stumbled — Darren Smart

A MAN who was out drinking died after stumbling into the road and being struck by a recovery vehicle.

Senior Coroner Robin Balmain concluded at Smethwick Coroners Court that Darren Smart, of King Street, Dudley, was killed in a road traffic collision.

Mr Smart, described by his sister as 'the life and soul of the party', was said to have such high levels of alcohol in his system that it would have led to 'extreme drunkenness' in the average social drinker.

Mr Smart, 39, died on The Parade on September 27 from multiple injuries. His death had been treated as a hit-and-run but the coroner's court heard how truck driver Paul Darby hadn't been aware he had hit anyone until he read about the collision the following day.

Mr Darby, of Merryfield Road, Dudley, said: "I was on the iPad checking the local news. The headline was about an accident on a road I had driven along the night before at the same time. I put two-and-two

together and went to the police."

Mr Darby said: "I was driving just normal speed. I was making my way up a hill. I heard a loud bang and I thought I had hit a house brick or the straps at the sides of my vehicle had come loose. When there's a car on the back I'm used to loud noises."

"There was no damage to the truck. I found that the mudguard had gone and I figured it must have fallen off and I had run over it."

Mr Balmain, concluding the cause of Mr Smart's death, said: "The pa-

thologist found 422 microgrammes of alcohol in his blood. I'm told that 350 microgrammes could be fatal on its own.

"The pathologist said that it could have led to extreme drunkenness in the average social drinker."

"It appears Mr Smart fell and stumbled into the road at the same time Mr Darby drove past. It seems he went into the side of the vehicle."

Mr Smart's sister, Karen Shotton, said: "Darren was the life and soul of the party."

# Neighbours' row over dog mess ended in violence

A DISPUTE over a dog fouling a Dudley street left a 65-year-old man with multiple fractures to his face.

Darren Hayes savagely attacked neighbour Ivan Stevens whose pet he blamed for the mess. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that violence flared after the unemployed 47-year-old launched a verbal assault on the wife of the other man. Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said: "She was out walking the dog when the defendant had an argument with her. She was shaken up by those events."

Mr Stevens went to see Hayes. He was adamant that his pet was not responsible for excrement in Grenville Road, Russells Hall, on July 24. "The situation escalated with the defendant becoming aggressive," continued Mr Rees. "He pushed the victim, who ended up on the ground where he was punched at least twice."

Mr Stevens was knocked unconscious and passerby Mr Stephen Rowson, a paramedic, gave first aid and called an ambulance. Mr Stevens was taken to hospital with fractures to bones around his eyes and nose. His glasses and watch were smashed. The lawyer said Mr Stevens still suffered pain and saw flashing lights.

Mr Simon Hanns, for Hayes, said: "He is a man who has had a number of difficulties and believed that the injured party's dog had fouled the area around his house on a number of occasions. The matter escalated and resulted in unpleasant injuries, for which the defendant is truly sorry."

Hayes, of Grenville Road, who had previous convictions for battery and assault, admitted wounding. He was given an 18 month jail sentence suspended under supervision for 18 months and ordered to pay £500 to the victim.

"Mary Macarthur was a powerful woman. She stood up for the metal working trades that made the UK prosperous. We should celebrate her life and honour the millions of manufacturing workers who made this country great."

"Like we do with bank notes, we should use the new £1 coin to celebrate great innovators."

## More than 37 to one ratio for store jobs



The huge queue for jobs with Aldi at the recruitment day held at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill

THIS was the scene as up to 1,500 job seekers queued for just 40 positions up for grabs at a discount supermarket chain.

The lengthy queue snaked around Brierley Hill's Copthorne Hotel where Aldi held a jobs fair on Friday for its stores in the Black Country and neighbouring areas.

Job hunters started arriving more than an hour before the event began at 1pm. They turned out to vye for 40 jobs divided between branches in Dud-

ley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Brierley Hill, Netherton, Wollaston, Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

### Mini-interview

Job seekers were given a mini-interview with management teams before handing in their CVs and contact details.

Those who have landed a job with the chain will be told in just over a week's time.

Job hunter Sharon Homer, 47, of

Cradley Heath, said she was 'very surprised' at the turn-out.

The former care support worker said: "It is very difficult to find work at the moment. But I have to confess to being very surprised at the number of people who have turned out. I knew it would be busy but never imagined anything on his scale."

Area manager Leon Donald said: "A previous event similar to this attracted around 1,500 people so we knew this event would be well attended."

## NEWS in brief

### Action likely to shut many schools

MORE than 100 schools were due to close across the West Midlands yesterday because of strike action. The day of action was being organised by the National Union of Teachers as part of a dispute over pay and conditions.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, education chief of Dudley Council, said: "It is a shame it has come to this."

"Workers are carrying out their legal right to take industrial action against the employer, which in this case is the Government."

### Shop revamp to create 10 jobs

A STORE in Dudley is to receive a major revamp, creating 10 jobs. The refurbishment of the B&M store in the Trident Centre will see a 50 per cent increase in shelf space, meaning extra products.

B&M spokesman Charlie Du Pre said work had begun on refurbishment of the store, which should be completed by May. The store will remain open during the work. Store manager Doug Leesley said: "We are really excited by the changes being made."

### Two schools to perform at concert

MUSIC students from from Elmfield School and Old Swinford Hospital School will perform a concert together on Saturday.

Singers, musicians and a swing band are in a show organised by Local & Live. The concert takes place at St James's Church, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 and free for under 18s, on the door or from Music Matters in Market Street.

### MP in visit to bus and coach depot

DUDLEY South MP Chris Kelly met with management and staff at National Express Group's Travel West Midlands depot on the Pensnett Estate in Kingswinford. "I learned how the depot employs 400 people and is open 24/7, moving tens of thousands of people around Dudley and the Black Country," said the Conservative MP.

### Appeal for drivers

A SERVICE providing lifts for people needing to get to medical and dental appointments is appealing for volunteer drivers. To help Hagley Helpline call 01562 886696 10am to noon on a week day.

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# THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A NEW 12-sided £1 coin is to be minted, similar to the old threepenny bit. It will have the Queen's head on one side and a competition will be held for the design on the other side. Clearly, we need a design which will see us through these changing times. How about "One Rouble"?

WHAT has the multi-millionaire global superstar Tony Bennett in common with Fungi, the alcoholic loser in Benefits Street (C4)? At the start of yet another tour this week, 87-year-old Bennett explained how much he loved performing and added: "I have never worked a day in my life." Curiously enough, Fungi said exactly the same.

A POOLS winner in every family. That's what George Osborne seems to be promising with his pledge to let pensioners take the full cash amount from their company pension pot instead of having to purchase a boring old annuity. Suddenly Mum or Dad hits 65 and a cheque for £100,000 or more arrives at the door. And so does a procession of people who want to get their hands on the loot. Shysters in smart suits and liars in limos will be queuing up to take your money and "invest" it. Long-lost friends will tap you up for a loan. And most demanding of all will be family members. The son who needs £50,000 for a sure-fire franchise plan. The daughter who suddenly fancies a £40,000 wedding. The grandchildren who are struggling at a state school and would blossom in an expensive private school. Instead of liberating you, George Osborne's plan has actually exposed you to the greatest tyranny of our age, the tyranny of choice. And that's when you realise that boring old annuities weren't so bad after all.

ECONOMICS for beginners. If a Government gives parents £800 extra towards child care, by how much will the local nursery put up its charges?

GENEALOGISTS say Prince Harry's girlfriend, Cressida Bonas, is a distant cousin of Princess Diana. So what? We are all distant cousins. It goes with living on an island. An unkind American commentator once pointed out that the serried ranks of the entire extended Windsor dynasty contain only six different faces, and two of those belong to the corgis.

AN international team of scientists, led by Cambridge University, has found no link between saturated fat consumption and heart disease. This is dynamite. Suddenly the received wisdom of the past 40 years is turned on its head. Four decades of being assured by manufacturers, celebrities and those TV-ad doctors in white coats that soft margarines and cooking oils were "the healthy option" are called into question. What makes it disturbing is that the belief that unsaturated fats are healthier than saturated ones has been endorsed globally by modern, educated scientists, food manufacturers and medics who had access to all the available research and, for whatever reason, failed to examine it. The Cambridge team didn't do any new experiments. They simply re-examined data from 72 studies of more than 600,000 people in 18 countries. And thus the truth emerged: saturated fat, whether measured in the diet or the bloodstream, shows no association with heart disease.

THE European Union buries its differences, stamps out petty feuding and flexes its muscles with a dazzling display of international harmony. Under a new EU law, all mobile phones will be compatible with a single type of charger by 2017. Now, isn't that worth £50,000 million a year?

GREAT inventions of our time. Scientists in Beijing have developed a tiny sensor which changes colour to tell you when milk has gone off. Lots of us already have a tiny sensor which does exactly the same job. A nose.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

# More council housing for borough

A SCHEME to build 17 council houses has been submitted after Dudley Council was awarded a grant of £385,000 for the project.

The local authority has identified two sites suitable for redevelopment, the old depots at The Walk in Sedgley, and Norfolk Road, Amblecote.

The council was awarded the cash from the Government's Homes and

Communities Agency to build council housing in the borough. The authority is also investing a further £2 million in the scheme.

It follows the successful completion of 99 new homes which were built on six sites across the borough in 2012.

These were the first council houses to be built in Dudley in more than 20 years.

Bosses said a decision would be made on the new homes in the summer as ecology surveys have first to be carried out at the sites.

If permission is granted, the authority plans to begin work at the two sites this autumn.

Proposals at The Walk are for a block of flats which will include six two-bedroom apartments, and three two-bedroom houses. Meanwhile,

eight two-bedroom flats are planned for Norfolk Road. Both schemes will provide supported housing.

Cabinet member for housing Councillor Steve Walto said there was a need for more council houses in the borough. He added: "This is a significant investment. Although these are small scale developments, they will provide essential homes for people today and in the future."

# Father and son jailed for violence at garage

A FATHER and son who launched an attack on two men at a car repair garage in Brierley Hill have been jailed for a total of 30 months.

Wayne Smith, 23, was among a gang of eight men led by his father Walter Smith, 57, who barged into a garage armed with metal bars and wooden clubs.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Smith senior damaged two vehicles with a large wooden pole before using it to strike the business owner across the face during the attack on June 29.

Walter and Wayne Smith, both of Bank Road, Netherton, pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding. They received prison sentences of 16 months and 14 months respectively. A separate charge of aggravated burglary was ordered to remain on each defendant's file.

Prosecutor Miss Nazneen Sultan said Smith senior suspected the garage owner had been responsible for a burglary at his business premises two days earlier.

"The victim was at work at his unit with another man when a group of eight men led by Walter Smith barged through the gates," she said. "Walter Smith initially damaged two vehicles with a long wooden stick before hitting the victim in the face, smashing his front teeth. Several members of the group set about the victim, hitting him with metal bars and wooden sticks."

She said a second man attempted to intervene but he was struck and lost consciousness.

by Peter Madeley

"When he got up Wayne Smith struck him to the left side of his head with a tyre lever," she added.

The court heard the garage owner suffered a cut to his head which required 10 stitches and had his front teeth plate smashed, while the other man needed seven stitches for a cut forehead.

Mr Nicholas Tatlow, defending Walter Smith, told the court his client had acted out of character.

"He may have lost control and released several weeks worth of built up frustration and anger," he said. "He deeply regrets what he has done. His remorse is magnified by the fact he involved his son."

Defending Wayne Smith, Miss Raquel Simpson said: "He acted through misplaced loyalty to his father."

Recorder Mr Stuart Sprawson said: "Anyone who takes the law into their own hands and uses weapons to attack people at their business premises must expect to go to prison."

# Unemployment still falling

NEW figures show a record number of people in work and continuing falls in unemployment. Jobless queues are also getting shorter in Dudley.

Nationwide just over 30 million people are in jobs, up by 459,000 on a year ago, the highest figure since records began in 1971, according to the Office for National Statistics.

In Dudley the February claimant count was down by 45 on January's figure, to 8,226 or 4.2 per cent of the borough's working population. In Wyre Forest there was more dramatic fall of 123, down to 1,682 or 2.8 per cent.

# Get on the run with Lisa



Rita Vanes, left, of Wordsley, and Lisa Davies, of Coseley, in practice for the London Marathon

SHE had barely run a mile before being inspired to don her trainers to help support her brother's cancer battle. Now Lisa Davies wants to encourage more ladies to take up running as she prepares to compete in the London Marathon.

Just 12 months ago Lisa was persuaded to take up running by her brother Carl who has been fighting prostate cancer. She joined Dudley Ladies Running Club and Lisa, aged 44, is now doing her final training runs ahead of the marathon on April 13.

Carl has completed three half marathons including the Great Birmingham Run and was due to join her on the starting line. But chemotherapy has left him unable to compete although he hopes to travel to watch Lisa and his son Ali, 20, take part.

Lisa was joined in her training by coach and friend Rita Vanes who established Dudley Ladies Running Club in 2002. Lisa is urging ladies to join the club's beginner course on April 15. Call Rita on 01384 832168 or visit www.dudleyladies.co.uk

# No boost for nine out of ten families

NINE out of ten families in Dudley North say their finances are not improving, according to an MP's survey.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin sent the survey to thousands of his constituents and says 87 per cent of respondents claimed their family finances were not improving, with less than one in three saying that they were optimistic about the year ahead.

## Savings

Family savings had also been hit, with three-quarters saving nothing or spending their savings to get by. Respondents said that rising energy bills were the biggest drain on family budgets with 86 per cent saying that they were a concern, and two-thirds said that they were also worried about the cost of food and everyday household items.

Sixty per cent of respondents knew someone who has been out of work longer than six months.

The Labour MP said: "Talking to local people it's clear that they're seriously worried about the future. George Osborne says that there's a recovery but these results show that the vast majority of local families have seen no improvement."

# Easter fun at leisure centre

DUDLEY Leisure Centre is hosting activity sessions for children aged eight to 14 during the Easter holiday

On April 15, 17, 22 and 24 there is a junior active zone including dance mats, video games, T-shirt design, crafts, swimming and team games. Sessions must be pre-booked, and run from 9am to 4pm, costing £15. Youngsters should bring a packed lunch and refreshments. Children can join pool sessions with inflatables on April 15-17, 22-24 at 1.45, costing £2.50. Call 01384 812800 or see www.dudley.gov.uk/sport website.

# Farage speech

UKIP leader Nigel Farage is to speak at a public meeting at Dudley Town Hall.

He will be speaking on April 25 at the ticket-only event ahead of the European elections. The event starts at 7.30pm and will involve speeches from the party's other local candidates.

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# Pervert's appeal is rejected by judges

A SECURITY guard who raped and sexually abused girls as young as seven over a 30-year period has had an appeal against his convictions turned down.

Mark Henry Allen, aged 72, of Hillside Road, Dudley, was jailed for 13 years at Wolverhampton Crown Court in March 2009 for sex crimes against three under-age victims.

At the Criminal Appeal Court in London, he asked Lady Justice Rafferty, Mr Justice Royce and Judge Simon Tonking to overturn his convictions, arguing that he didn't receive a fair trial.

The court heard Allen began abusing girls as young as five in the 1970s. He was stopped in 2006 after a victim went to the authorities. He had denied any wrongdoing but was found guilty.

Lawyers argued the jury should have been given a modified good character direction, pointing out that he had no previous convictions for sex crimes. It was submitted that the failure of the judge to do so had deprived Allen of 'an important shield' in his denial.

Lady Justice Rafferty threw out his complaints. "There is nothing in this application and it is dismissed," she concluded.

# Pope chooses city bishop

THE Pope has appointed a new bishop for the West Midlands. Father Robert Byrne will take over as Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham at St Chad's Cathedral on May 13.

The 57-year-old will succeed Wolverhampton-born Bishop Philip Pargeter.

Manchester-born Father Byrne, who will have special pastoral responsibilities for Kidderminster and Worcester, said: "I began my priestly ministry in Birmingham 29 years ago and I look forward to renewing my friendships and to making my home once again in this great city."

# Take the plunge

ADULTS who have never learned to swim are being urged to take the plunge with lessons at Halesowen Leisure Centre.

Adult learner sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call (01884) 812800 or visit [www.dudley.gov.uk/sport](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/sport)

# Luke 'Skywalker' explores origin of universe



Luke Jew pictured at work

LUKE 'Skywalker' Jew is on the brink of going where no man has gone before by exploring the origin of the universe in the first few seconds after the Big Bang.

The Stourbridge student is delighted that American cosmologists have announced that they have opened a window beyond the Milky Way to see traces from the split-second after the Big Bang that started everything 14 billion years ago.

Luke, 23, and a team from Oxford University, where he is studying for

his doctorate at Oriel College, are in the final stages of calibrating a telescope in the South African desert, which aims to discover more.

"We will be filtering out the Milky Way to explore the area opened up by this pinprick which was announced at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics," said Luke, a former pupil at Oldswinford Hospital School.

"The discovery, made by an international collaboration from the Bicep — Background Imaging of

Cosmic Extragalactic Polarisation — telescope at the South Pole, is the Holy Grail of cosmology.

"It will probably win a Nobel prize because, for the first time, it proves the theory of primordial gravitational waves, which are an echo of the Big Bang which caused the universe to expand rapidly and hugely — something we call inflation.

"For us it has opened up a window through which we plan to see the wider picture of the Big Bang and the creation of the universe."

Luke, who lives with his mother, Jane, sister Eva and brothers Joe and Danny in Heath Street, Stourbridge, is nicknamed 'Skywalker' by his family.

He is working with the CBASS (C-Band All Sky Survey) project, a collaboration by the Universities of Oxford and Manchester helping to build a telescope at Hartbeesthoek, near Johannesburg.

Luke will return to South Africa this spring to help move the telescope to the remote Karoo desert.

# Microlight pilot in death crash had no flying licence

A PILOT who died when his microlight crashed after hitting cables had no flying licence and the machine was not registered.

Father-of-two Andrew Tollerton, of Gerald Road, Wollaston, died in a farmer's field near Stourbridge. An inquest jury was told that the lorry driver, 52, had chest and head injuries. The Pegasus Flex Wing two-seater crashed at Barratt's Coppice, Bridgnorth Road, Stourton, shortly after 5.50pm on October 6.

# 'Deadlock' warning on supermarket

A MAJOR scheme to transform the site of derelict office block in Dudley could be delayed, warns a senior Tory councillor.

Proposals to demolish former Inland Revenue offices Cavendish House are in the pipeline ahead of redevelopment. Permission has been awarded to two rival schemes for a supermarket on the site, off Trindle Road.

But more than one landowner controls part of the site and Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley has warned Dudley Council cabinet that they could face deadlock.

Rival developers Avenbury and Cavendish Quarter Properties Ltd have both submitted plans for a supermarket on the site. Dudley regeneration chief Councillor Judy Foster said she hoped talks would be concluded by the summer.

Councillor Harley told councillors: "This is dragging on forever. There is a danger that with those applicants all owning land, each will sit on that land and play a game of who blinks first"

Checks showed that the microlight was in a good condition but it was not registered and had not been inspected by officials since May 2009. Craft should be inspected annually. It had been de-registered in November 2012.

"Therefore the aircraft could not be considered as being airworthy despite being in good condition," said Mr Vickery.

He added: "What struck me was that the cables disappeared into the lines furrowed in the field, also the telegraph posts. I believe the cables, the posts and the angle of the sun low in the sky conspired to hide themselves, causing Mr Tollerton not to see them until it was too late."

The jury returned a verdict that Mr Tollerton died as a result of an accident.

# Soldiers' support goes to his Ed



Pte Chris Bagley of The Merican Regiment ruffles the hair of singer Ed Sheeran with Pte Adam Waston at Camp Bastion

A SOLDIER from Dudley cheekily roughed up the hair of chart-topping singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran for a photograph in Afghanistan — which went viral on the internet.

Pte Chris Bagley, of the 3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment, asked the Brit award-winner to pose with him and fellow soldier Pte Adam Eaton at Camp Bastion where the singer held a concert for the troops last week.

The armoured-vehicle driver, 21 from Pensnett, was returning to base

as his eight-month tour comes to an end. He said: "Ed was making a visit to Camp Bastion to do a show and I got asked if I wanted to meet him. We didn't have long to speak to him so it was just pictures and autographs.

"We asked if we could run our fingers through his hair because we thought it'd make a cool picture."

Since the picture went on social network site Twitter, it has been shared by thousands. Pte Bagley, who attended Pensnett School, said: "I just

didn't expect the picture to hit it off like it did. It's been mental. All positive support, I may add."

The tour is Pte Bagley's second. He spent six months in Afghanistan in 2011, having joined the army from Stourbridge College in 2010. HHe returns home next month to be reunited with girlfriend Jess Cadwallder.

Pte Bagley's mother, Joanne, said: "We'll all have a party when he returns. It was funny seeing him with Ed Sheeran, it made all of us smile."

# NEWS in brief

## Child poverty is above the average

CHILD poverty and teen pregnancies are above the national average in Dudley.

In the borough 22.8 per cent of under-16s are classed as living in poverty. The national average is 20.6 per cent. Figures for child poverty in Dudley were better than the rest of the Black Country.

Dudley has above national average rates for conceptions by under-18s. For every 1,000 15 to 17s there were 35.6 conceptions. The average across the country was 30.7.

## Police need help with theft inquiry

OFFICERS are appealing for the public's help to find a man in connection with the theft of cash from a handbag at Coseley railway station.

PC Gemma Middleton, investigating officer, said: "The victim inadvertently left her handbag in the waiting room at Coseley station. The handbag was handed into staff by a man a short time later but £150 in cash was missing."

The theft happened on February 21. Call 0800 405040.

## Job training by a youth charity

A YOUTH charity is throw open its doors to show how they help people find jobs.

The Rathbone's centre, at Newey Business Park in Tipton, held an open day to showcase its learning programmes, which range from military preparation to business administration.

For details on youth training with Rathbone's call 0121 522 6990 or visit the [www.rathboneuk.org](http://www.rathboneuk.org) website.

## Eggs-ellent bid to please children

A FUNERAL director is collecting chocolate eggs to give to children in hospital over the Easter period.

R Morgan, in Badger Street, Upper Gornal, is taking donations from businesses, community groups and nearby residents.

The eggs will go to children at Russells Hall Hospital.

## Sheds hit by blaze

TWO sheds and a wooden deck at neighbouring homes in Halesowen were hit by a mysterious fire.

Fire crews were called to reports of sheds and decking on fire in the gardens of homes in Manor Lane.

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

HOW many coppers does it take to change a lightbulb? Quite a lot, of copper coins that is, according to new figures from the Metropolitan Police.

It now emerges that the force pays a maintenance company £26 every time it needs a bulb replacing, or £100 in the case of an emergency.

And what exactly constitutes an 'emergency' in the world of police lighting maintenance?

If it involves clambering on the top of a speeding police car to replace the flashing blue light, then fair enough, and well worth the hundred quid. Otherwise, it can surely wait.

Or perish the thought, maybe somebody at the station could be trained in the art of lightbulb replacement?

WATCHING the coverage surrounding the 30th anniversary of the miners' strike, the saddest thing of all is the vitriol which still exists between families on either side of the dispute.

Particularly tragic is the response from the former miners' wives, who you might hope would have been a calming influence.

The wife of one man, who went on strike during the dispute, described the working miners as 'the scum of the earth', accusing them of betraying their colleagues.

Surely, after all these years, it is time to bury the hatchet?

I can understand why some of the miners wanted to go on strike, fearing for the future of their industry, and I can also understand why some decided to work through the dispute.

But surely the hallmark of a civilised society is the ability to respect those you disagree with?

Wouldn't it have been so much better if, instead of stoking up the venom, some of the miners' wives had said: "Look, Bob is going out on strike, it is his right to do that. And Dave is going to work, which is also his right. That doesn't mean you can't still be friends."

During the First World War, British and German soldiers found it within themselves to take part in a game of football during the Christmas Day truce. No industrial dispute is worth this level of hatred.

SO Vladimir Putin has taken over the Crimea, and his troops are now amassed and ready to take over Moldova.

Meanwhile, Dave and Barack have voted to expel him from G8, which is basically a sort of rotary club for world leaders. That'll teach him.



Muriel Thatcher feeding the giraffes seven years ago



Young Muriel in the 1930s when Dudley Zoo first opened



Muriel celebrated her 80th birthday with Dudley's lemurs

# Muriel visits zoo over 2,000 times

ANDREW TURTON meets Muriel Thatcher, Dudley Zoo's biggest fan since the opening day in 1937

**A FIRST** captivating visit to Dudley Zoo by a little girl on its opening day 77 years ago started what would become a lifelong love affair.

Now aged 87, Muriel Thatcher has visited the attraction at least twice a month ever since she was first spellbound by the Castle Hill attraction at the age of 10. She has since even adopted 23 of the animals that call Dudley Zoological Gardens their home.

And now the zoo has presented Muriel, who has to catch two buses on a three-hour round trip to get there, with life membership and an engraved bench in her honour.

## First

Miss Thatcher, from Wednesfield, recalls her first visit to the zoo on its opening day on May 6, 1937, like it was yesterday.

She said: "When I heard that a zoo was opening, I begged my mum that she would take me and my younger sister.

"My first ever visit was just magical. I had never seen exotic animals.

"On the opening day, we waited for hours upon end as queues to get in snaked around the block and my mum wanted to give up and go home but I begged her to stay.

"When we got in, it was worth every minute that we waited and I felt like I was taken to another world."

She has been so dedicated to the zoo's animals over what equates to more than 2,000 visits, that she even took food in for them during the Second World War.

"Visiting the zoo during the war was



Zoo chairman Neil Cutler and chief Peter Suddock present Muriel with membership

a bit of a challenge, as everyone had to concentrate on the war effort," she said. "Adding to that, the zoo had irregular opening hours because of air raid scares and the blackouts.

"Nevertheless, I still tried to go as much as possible and I used to take any food scraps for the animals, as food was scarce for humans let alone animals, and so I felt sorry for them.

"I particularly hold fond in my heart memories from the great summer of 1969. The atmosphere at the zoo was so electric and everyone had a blast.

"Everyone was happy because of the glorious weather and people were eating ice cream after ice cream to keep cool.

"Even the elephants, who are used to high heats, were having to be constantly cooled down with big buckets of water."

Miss Thatcher, who helped to open the zoo's new £40,000 Penguin Bay exhibit in May 2012, will now be able to sit on her very own bench in the Lemur Wood.

She was also presented with a ruck-

sack kitted out with a hot drinks flask and a packet of biscuits as zoo chairman Neil Cutler and zoo chief executive Peter Suddock gave her free life membership.

She said: "The bench is beautiful and very comfortable and I joked that I will need a truck to push it round with me.

"The flask is also very thoughtful, the staff have obviously spotted me having my picnics.

"It's such a special place and I love visiting as often as I can.

"I've seen lots of changes over the past 77 years and it has improved no end, but I definitely believe it's the best it has ever been.

"The staff are so wonderful and the work they do with the animals is brilliant."

Being perhaps the zoo's biggest fan, Miss Thatcher has become a VIP over the years and is always invited to any special functions.

"They do treat me very well and they let me hold some of the smaller animals whenever I go," she said.

"They will send a car for me if there is a function but I don't like all the fuss and would even go if I had to walk all the way there."

## Amazing

But with so many experiences at the zoo to remember, she does recall her favourite moment from across the 77 years.

"I was lucky enough to even be invited to a special audience to watch one of the tigers, Sarah, give birth to her cubs," she said. "The whole thing lasted about 20 minutes and it was such an amazing spectacle.

"I just love Dudley Zoo, it's a very special place for me and I never tire of it."

"I cannot imagine life without the zoo. The staff are like family and it's the most magical place."

She added: "Now that I'm saving on an annual pass, I'll be able to spend more money on treats for my favourite animals."

## THROUGH THE YEARS

### 1984

THE chairman of the National Coal Board Ian McGregor was knocked to the ground during a visit to a Northumberland pit. Police were trying to hold back crowds of miners who threw eggs as he tried to leave. Mr McGregor, aged 71, was pinned against a fence which collapsed.

THE man who led Argentina to war with Britain by invading the Falkland Islands was placed under arrest in his home country. General Leopoldo Galtieri, who had seized control of Argentina in a military coup in December 1981, was accused by the country's highest military court of 'leading the country to war when it was not prepared for a confrontation of such characteristics and magnitude'.

### 1994

PRIME Minister Tony Blair warned that no-one was safe from terror after more than 200 people were killed in a bomb attack on a train in Madrid. Basque separatist group ETA denied claims by the Spanish government that it was behind the bombing. "We will not defeat it by hoping it will leave us alone or by hiding away. We must be prepared for them to strike," said Mr Blair, adding that he would do 'whatever is necessary' to defend democracy.

PRIME Minister John Major admitted he was bewildered by youngsters who bought expensive jeans and then tore holes in them during a visit to a fashion show in the West Midlands. The PM, not noted for his cutting-edge fashion sense, also told designer Jeff Banks that it was his wife Norma who had dragged him along to the Premier Collections show at the NEC.

### 2004

THREE men from Tipton were due to return to the UK after being detained for more than 20 years in Guantanamo Bay. Ruhai Ahmed, aged 23, Asif Iqbal, 20 and Shafiq Rasul, 25, were expected to be questioned by British police on arrival at RAF Northolt in Middlesex. They had been captured in Afghanistan in 2001, and held in US custody on suspicion of terror offences at Camp Delta in Cuba. They were released without charge after being interviewed by police.

THE stars of hit comedy Phoenix Nights were heading for the West Midlands for a night of stand-up. However, Peter Kay, the man who created the sitcom set in a Lancashire social club, was not attending. Paddy McGuinness, who played the hapless bouncer Paddy O'Shea, was to compete the Jumping On The Bandwagon show at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall.

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# London airports the reason for HS2

AS a keen train-spotter in my youth — there wasn't much else to do in Tipton in those days — I have always maintained an interest in the railways.

The new head of HS2 has announced his intention to speed up the building of the project, bringing it forward by six years. He claims to have spent time in the Midlands and the North and says he is passionate about re-balancing the economy to bring jobs and wealth to those regions. He also claims that the West Coast Main Line is, and I quote, "Victorian". He must be well aware of the fact that it was completely re-laid

and re-vamped for electrification in the 1960s. He should also have noticed that the West Midlands has by far the best rail network outside London, so why the hurry?

As for creating jobs and wealth, in all my 64 years I have never heard anyone say "If only rail travel to London was quicker, things would be a lot better". However, I have often heard business people complaining about insurance costs, business rates and development costs. These are the issues that determine the distribution of wealth and jobs. By cutting business rates and

development costs, the Government could achieve those supposed objectives without spending an extra penny of taxpayers' money.

So why is HS2 so important to them? It is the main link in improving rail passenger access to Stansted, Gatwick and Heathrow to coincide with recently approved expansion plans, all at the expense of Birmingham, Coventry and East Midlands airports. If HS2 is ever completed, make no mistake, the Midlands will suffer.

**M CLIFF**  
Wall Heath

## Grant aid for 'Our Big Gig'

ONE-OFF grants of £400 are available to community groups and organisations to help them take part in Our Big Gig, a community music celebration taking place across the UK on the 11th, 12th and 13th July 2014.

Our Big Gig is an annual event that brings communities together to improve community cohesion and inspire people to take part in music making opportunities in their local area. Successful applicants will be offered resources, support and training.

The project is managed by Superact, a not-for-profit music and arts organisation that uses creativity to improve the health and well-being of people from a wide variety of backgrounds and abilities.

The deadline for applications is Friday, April 4, at noon. Apply now on-line at [www.ourbiggig.co.uk](http://www.ourbiggig.co.uk)

Please get in touch for further information.

**NICOLA TOMS**  
Project Manager

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

## Lot of catching-up over apprenticeships

WHOSE fault is the current skills gap? Having read that earlier this month was designated as National Apprenticeship Week, I am provoked to repeat the contents of a letter published some four to five years ago.

The present Government is endeavouring to 'reinvent the wheel'. When Margaret Thatcher's Government took charge there existed around 70 to 80 training boards responsible for ensuring adequate skills training for a great variety of industries.

I was for 30 years involved with industrial training firstly with Joseph Sankey & Sons Ltd and later as a lecturer at Dudley Technical College. Training was then closely monitored by the Engineering Industry Training Board, which ensured a high level of achievement for apprentices. These boards were funded by a levy on companies of a certain minimum size and did a really good job in maintaining high skills levels. During the Thatcher Government these were mostly discontinued (as far as I am aware the only survivors are those for the construction and road transport industries). Myself and many others expressed concern at this decision but to no avail and the 30 year skills gap is the result. There is now a great amount of catching up to do.

**J GAGE, C.ENG MIET**  
Willenhall

## Details are needed on rail route

IS it me or were there supposed to be consultations about the supposedly proposed HS2 (High Speed 2) and its routes?

It would seem that now it is being steamrollered through.

If HS2 is only proposed why has a company with a chairman been formed to oversee it?

### Map

And more to the point — who is paying its employees?

When the proposed routes are shown on TV we only see a green background with a line showing the route and only major towns and cities are shown.

I would much prefer to see a Google Earth type of map, showing the entire route taking in the villages and towns so people can see the full impact.

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This picture of Manfred Mann is on show at the exhibition



A shot of Midlands band The Move from Jim Simpson's collection



The Rolling Stones feature in this Jim Simpson picture



Jim Simpson of Big Bear Records with some of his collection

# Unique snaps relive the rock 'n' roll years

UNIQUE photographs, taken by music manager Jim Simpson, feature in an exhibition on the heady days of rock 'n' roll at a Black Country library.

Mr Simpson, a music photographer and the original manager of Black Sabbath, is showing off his collection of rare photographs at West Bromwich Central Library until this weekend.

Jagger, The Killer and The Prettiest Man In Rock and Roll, features 40 images of artists, including Mick Jagger, Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard, during visits to the West Midlands.

Mr Simpson was the founder of the Birmingham-based Big Bear record company. Many of the pictures, which come from his personal collection, have not been seen for more than 40 years.

"Back in the 60s, I was playing in a band called Locomotive, and I was a photographer for Melody Maker," said the 75-year-old, who grew up in Halesowen. "I used to take pictures for them, but I also used to keep some

## MEMORY LANE by Mark Andrews

back for myself, and the pictures in the exhibition are some of those," he said.

Jagger's band The Rolling Stones feature, along with Chuck Berry, Nina Simone, John Lee Hooker and Rod Stewart.

The first official publicity shots of The Moody Blues, and The Move, along with photographs of The Spencer Davis Group are also on show.

The photographs give a fascinating insight into how musicians appeared when they were not performing.

"I remember Cream, with Eric Clapton, were playing in a pub in Yardley in front of 200 people, and you could always get backstage for a few pictures," said Mr Simpson.

"The chances of you ever getting that close to Clapton these days would seem pretty remote."

The exhibition will mark 45 years

of his Big Bear label. Other stars in the exhibition include Cilla Black, Bill Haley and The Comets, and Chuck Berry.

Mr Simpson started running Big Bear records in 1968, and it was during this time he discovered a four-piece band called Earth at a famous music night he ran in Birmingham called Henry's Blues House.

## Better

"When I first saw them I could see they were talented and I let them play a few slots, the audience response was good so I asked if I could manage them," he said.

The band even wrote a song for him called, Song for Jim, but he could quickly see them going on to better things. After a suggestion by bassist Geezer Butler, they went to become Black Sabbath.

Eventually the band went its separate way and they ended up signing up with Phillips Records, just two weeks after Jim helped them launch their first album Black Sabbath.



Little Richard also features in the display

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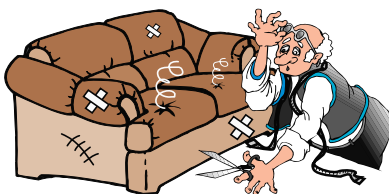
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# MP toasts success of vineyard's new centre

**A VISITOR centre could help bring 150,000 visitors a year to an expanding vineyard near Stourbridge.**

The owners of Halfpenny Green Vineyards at Bobbington say the site is becoming increasingly important as a tourist destination following the opening of new buildings which will allow visitors to watch the wine makers at work. South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson was taken on a tour of the new wine-tasting centre this month and toured the newly extended winery. Sales and marketing manager Tina Abbiss said the vineyard in Tom Lane already attracted 100,000 visitors a year.

## Increase

"We're hoping that the new tasting centre will allow us to increase our numbers to 150,000 a year," she said. The new centre, called The Wine House, has viewing area allowing visitors to watch the wine-making process taking place.

"As well as being open to anybody who calls in during the day, it will be used for corporate events, coach parties and wine-tasting sessions," said Miss Abbiss.

Mr Williamson was shown around the winery, where winemaker and director Clive Vickers demonstrated the new equipment which will allow Halfpenny Green to double its capacity.

He said the extra capacity would allow the vineyard to produce 85,000 bottles of its own wines this year, as well as a further 100,000 bottles under contract for other vineyards.

The investment, which runs into 'hundreds of thousands of pounds', includes a third wine press, new fermentation tanks and chiller unit.

Mr Vickers, whose father Martin



Clive Vickers pours for Gavin Williamson



Mr Williamson looks at a wine tank



Ben Hunt on the wine bottling line planted the vineyard in 1983, said tourism was becoming an increasingly important aspect of their work.

"We are getting a growing number of coach operators who run mystery tours who are getting in touch with us, including us on their itinerary," he said.



Clive Vickers and family toast success "It is a side of the business we would like to grow. The more visitors we get here, the more wine we sell, and it also means more people using the fisheries, the shop and the tea rooms.

Mr Williamson said afterwards: "It is great to see a rural business going from strength to strength."

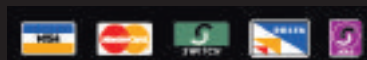
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# Tragedy in the sun as balcony fall kills father

IT had been a sunshine getaway with the family he adored in luxury surroundings. But the dream family holiday to Turkey ended in tragedy.

A coroner has ruled that father-of-two Richard Handley most likely died in an accident when he fell from the top floor balcony of his hotel room.

His wife Rachel is still trying to come to terms with the fact that she will probably never know exactly what happened.

Mr Handley, 39, of Netherton, was found by a gardener outside the Baia Lara Hotel, in Antalya on August 31, 2012.

Smethwick Coroners Court heard that Mr Handley had been on holiday with Rachel and daughter Paige, now nine. Mrs Handley, of Fladbury Close, Netherton, said the family had returned to their hotel room, on the top floor of the building, at around 3.30pm the previous day.

She told the inquest she and her husband had been drinking alcohol earlier that day. "He had been drinking vodka and coke and I had cocktails," she said. "It did not seem to affect him. Richard did not seem drunk. We were nearing the end of our



The Baia Lara Hotel in Turkey where the tragedy happened

holiday and went back to the hotel room at around 3.30pm. It was the hottest part of the day so we all had showers and went to sleep."

Mrs Handley said she had woken up at around 9.30pm and her husband was not there.

She had gone back to sleep and was awoken by the phone early the next morning.

"All the person on the other end asked

was if my husband was with me," she said. "I told them he wasn't there."

"Richard was very in to his fitness, he absolutely loved the gym, and sometimes he used to go down to the beach for a run during the morning."

"Thinking this is what had happened I got Paige and myself ready to go and meet him."

"It was only when I left the room and was on my way the hotel manager called me



Tourist Richard Handley died in a fall from a balcony

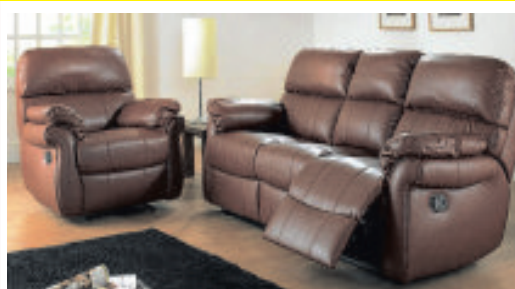
over and said Richard had been found. His body was still outside."

A tent had been set up around her husband's body and police attended.

Senior Black Country Coroner Mr Robin Balmain said: "A post-mortem was carried out in this country which found the cause of death to be severe head injuries, as may be expected. "Although we do not know for certain, it is most likely Mr Handley fell over the balcony."

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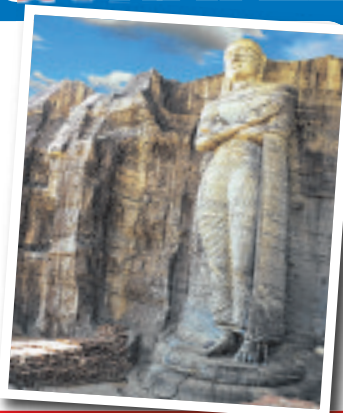
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## Shopping village trip is finalised

### QUARRY BANK E TWG

MRS V Wright chaired the first meeting of Quarry Bank TG in 2014 and greeted 27 members.

The meeting proceeded with the reading and signing of minute. The treasurer's report was also given.

Mrs V Raybould gave information received from her attendance at the federation meeting. The National AGM will this year be held in Cardiff and arrangements for transport were mentioned.

The Harvest Supper normally held in Wollaston is cancelled. Instead this year there will be a Harvest Lunch. Mrs Wright had correspondence including an invitation to the Mayor's Ball and thanks received from the Air Ambulance Charity and Mary Stevens Hospice for donations from last year's charity events.

Social secretary Mrs Writtle had finalised arrangements for the visit to The Hop Pocket Shopping Village on April 1. The birthday dinner will be on March 25 at Himley House Hotel.

Speaker for this evening was Derek Clark who gave a most interesting talk – illustrated with slides – on the restoration of the Back to Back houses in Birmingham.

Several of the frontages of these houses were, until quite recently, being used as shops, whereas the back premises were completely derelict.

Mr Clark was thanked for a quite fascinating account of this project.

The meeting this evening ended as usual with the serving of tea and biscuits.

## Money split after year of fundraising



Chairman Janice Symonds presents Geoff Wilkes from the Macro Anaphthalmic Children's Society and Elaine Denny from the Alzheimers Cafe with cheques for £550 each

### CODSALL 'M' TG

THROUGHOUT the past year, members of Codsall 'M' Townswomen's Guild have been working to raise money for their two chosen charities, the Macro Anaphthalmic Children's Society and the Alzheimers Cafe.

Social afternoons with quizzes, sales of cakes and craft items, silent auctions, raffles and cream teas were held and a total of £1,100 was raised altogether.

At the Guild's recent AGM, chairman Janice Symonds presented Mr Geoff Wilkes

representing the Macro Anaphthalmic Children's Society and Ms Elaine Denny from the Alzheimers Cafe with cheques for £550 each.

Both representatives gave a short talk about the work done by their respective charities and expressed their grateful thanks on receiving such substantial amounts.

## Molly wins the Daisy Drive

### HAWNE TG

dra Hartshorne gave details of trips planned to the Dudley Archives and the Black Country Museum.

An evening at Haden Hill House in November has been booked. Weather permitting there will be a long walk in the spring.

After the business of the evening, members enjoyed a Daisy Drive, organised by Joyce Graves. Accompanied by much laughter, the winner was Molly Greenway. Barbara Bryant won the booby prize, a giant lollipop.

The needlework competition was won by Sheila Turner.

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## New Motorised Wheelchair for Age UK Dudley at Merry Hill



Pictured above is David Hazlewood, Director of Straits Mobility, handing over the new wheelchair to Elaine Panchal, Age UK Dudley manager.

Visitors to Merry Hill Centre who require help with mobility will have access to a brand new motorised wheelchair thanks to a donation from a local mobility company.

Age UK Dudley and Straits Mobility have enjoyed an excellent working relationship since 2011 and this has been enhanced with the latest addition to the Shopmobility Service at the centre.

Straits Mobility Services Ltd are an established, independent, family run business based on The Russells Hall Estate in Dudley and are experts in the supply, repair and servicing of mobility products. They have gone from strength to strength over the last five years culminating with the opening of their new Mobility Centre last Summer which can accommodate their excellent range of mobility products.

Director David Hazlewood commented "We have donated this electric wheelchair to Age UK Dudley for use by visitors to the Merry Hill Centre. They provide a great service and this addition to their fleet we are sure will be a great benefit."

Brian Phillips, Senior Manager at Age UK Dudley was delighted to receive the donation "Whilst our work is primarily associated with providing support and activities for all older people throughout the Borough, it is important to understand that you do not need to be an older person or even a disabled person to sometimes need some help with mobility and that is exactly what Age UK Dudley looks to provide for visitors here at Merry Hill.

Straits Mobility service and maintain our Motorised Scooter and Wheelchair Fleet and have done so in the most professional and reliable manner since we took over the Shopmobility Service in 2011.

Age UK Dudley enjoys an excellent relationship with Straits Mobility and we look forward to continue working with them for a long time to come. In difficult economic times we are thoroughly delighted to accept this most generous donation of a motorised wheelchair from Straits Mobility."





# It's a real glass act for mother

VISITORS to a popular Black Country attraction have got the chance to make or buy their own personalised Mother's Day gift. Those who want to make their own present will be able to take part in sessions with studio artists from the made@the cone collective at Stourbridge's Red House Glass Cone on Sunday. Saz's Ceramics is running a drop-in session from 10.30am until 4pm where youngsters can paint a posy vase or design a photo frame for £5.

There is also a mum's wish watercolour painting workshop with Sean Counley running from 10am to 1pm. It costs £17.50 and people will need to book on 07875 577232. Anyone preferring to buy a gift can pick up a colourful, palm-sized glass love heart by glass artist Charlotte Hughes-Martin, a piece of jewellery or glassware from the studios. The Red House Glass Cone is open from 10am to 4pm and admission is free.

# Memories of factory life are in demand

**FORMER and present factory workers employed by manufacturers across Dudley are being asked to take part in a heritage project.** Dudley Council's new archives and local history centre is appealing to residents to support the Black Country Echoes project which involves the four Black Country councils. The project is designed to tell the story of the region's industrial heritage and the impact manufacturing in the Black Country had on the world. Experts want to tell the personal stories behind the firms from the the people who

## Friends work together on hit children's book



**Author Louise Lench and illustrator Nick J Townsend** A CHILDREN'S book created by two friends is fulfilling long-held aspirations for the pair. Author Louise Lench worked on her book, Flo and Teddy Visit The Fair, with Stourbridge ock musician Nick J Townsend in recent months. Nick, who combines his career as an illustrator with working at Base Studios, Lye, had promised to help illustrate his friend's first book when they were at college. The self-published book has now gone on sale and has already reached number three in the children's book charts on online store Amazon. It is aimed at two to five-year-olds and follows the story of Teddy the Tiger and the Flo the Elephant. Nick, also frontman of band WEAK13, said: "We've had parents sending reviews of the book and their children love it."

To see the artwork in the making or to buy a copy of the book visit [www.floandteddy.co.uk](http://www.floandteddy.co.uk)

## Funding not fair enough Public are asked to pick penguin name

MEASURES to make funding for schools 'fairer' have not gone far enough, an MP has said. Gavin Williamson wants a debate to take place in Parliament and said areas such as neighbouring Wolverhampton get more per pupil than in his South Staffordshire constituency, which includes Kinver. In South Staffordshire, the average overall spending per pupil is £5,129 compared to neighbouring Wolverhampton, which receives £930 more. IT'S time to p-p-p-pick some names for the new penguins which are due to arrive at the National Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. Keepers at the attraction in Brindley Place have launched a Facebook campaign to name one of the birds, as they make finishing touches to the Gentoo Penguins' new enclosure -Penguin Ice Adventure. When the penguins arrive they will have all that they need, including a 70,000 litre tank to swim and dive in, an icy backdrop and lots of shrimp to feed on. James Robson, curato, said: "The penguins are travelling to us from New Zealand and we've had word from their current keepers that we should expect some really mischievous characters, including a kleptomaniac, a penguin poser and a high-pitched honker!" Visit [www.facebook.com/sealifebirmingham](http://www.facebook.com/sealifebirmingham) and make your suggestion by March 31.

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# Figures show more pets stolen by heartless thieves

**MORE than 100 dogs, 68 birds, 13 fish, five sheep and even one chicken — that's just some of the hundreds of animals snatched by thieves in one year.**

New figures show 249 pets and livestock were stolen in 2013 across the West Midlands. The number equates to almost five thefts a week and is up by two from the year before. Police say they treat the offences seriously but an animal rescuing and rehoming charity claims the figures are only the tip of the iceberg.

Denise Broadman, from Dog Watch in the West Midlands, said: "Dogs are being stolen at an alarming rate with many being sold on for drugs or to be used for fighting. It is a worrying time and I urge everyone to keep their pets on lead in public places."

Rare breeds including Chihuahuas, Japanese Akitas and Siberian Huskies are among the animals most targeted, according to Mrs Broadman, who says a pedigree puppy can fetch as much as £2,000.

## Time review takes too long

**Sick**

There are also instances where the pets are taken and then offered back as part of a ransom from their owners.

"There is a sick underground world out there where people are given orders to steal dogs," said Mrs Broadman.

A search on websites such as doglost.co.uk reveals the extent of the problem with dozens of desperate owners listing their pets.

Jennie Dhanjal, founder of K9 Search UK, which also advertises lost and stolen dogs, said: "We get many, many calls from concerned owners with a range of terrible stories, from animal kidnapping to dogs disappearing from back gardens."

"It's heartbreaking for the owners. We just try and do our best to get them back."

But it is not just dogs which are targeted. The figures from the three police forces show birds, fish, sheep, chickens and even guinea pigs are swiped by thieves.

A total of nine horses, ponies and donkeys were stolen last year.

West Midlands Police said three fish were stolen, a snake and a reptile were taken in the same year.

## Posters aim to save lives



Peter Brooks with a cheeky but potentially vital warning

PEOPLE from the Black Country have become the faces of a cheeky new poster campaign to encourage people to spot the signs of cancer earlier.

Peter Brooks from Stourbridge, Angela Daniels of Halesowen and Lisa Eardly from Wolverhampton, are appearing in the Cancer Research UK Spot Cancer Sooner campaign.

It aims to get people to know what is normal for their bodies so they are more likely to notice changes which could indicate cancer.

Peter Brooks, aged 56, of Beckman Road, is taking a starring role.

He said most people knew someone who is or has been affected by cancer.

"Hopefully my message helps and gets someone to start checking themselves or maybe go to the doctor if they spot anything unusual or have got something that's been bothering them," he said.

"If it helps one person's life, that's got to be a good thing."

Mr Brooks said his aunt was affected by cancer when he was quite young, which made him want to do anything to help.

## Addict decided to grow his own

A MAN who started growing cannabis after a jail sentence for a similar crime has been spared another spell behind bars.

Steven Darnley rented a property from a friend after his release from an 18 month prison term, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Later a relative of the owner of the property in Whittington Road, Halesowen, noticed a window was boarded up, said Miss Sarah Allen, prosecuting.

The owner investigated after failing to contact 33-year-old Darnley and alerted police when he found cannabis being grown in two bedrooms. "Eleven plants were being grown under a hydroponic set up with fans and lighting. The yield of three annual crops would have been worth up to £10,000," said Miss Allen.

Mr Raymond McVeighy, defending, said: "He is an electrician and helped renovate a house owned by a former school friend with whom he made an arrangement to occupy the premises for 12 months. He had an expensive cannabis habit and decided to grow the stuff rather than pay others for it. He has voluntarily sought help for his drug addiction."

Darnley, of Bournes Hill, Halesowen, admitted producing cannabis and was given a 12 month prison sentence suspended under supervision for two years along with three month night curfew and £250 costs.



## Ann's smile puts her in top gear

### ADVERTISEMENT

WILLENHALL'S Ann Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

A young-at-heart 75-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment,"

she recalls. Recently she was fitted with implant-retained dentures, inspired by a newspaper article on Steven Burchell's work at the Denture Clinic.

She says: "You don't realise how having bad teeth can affect you until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed. I could not have wished for better treatment. My care was first class and Steven has become like family to us."

# Suction solution is this the answer for you?

**A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.**

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley, and other clinics across the region, says the invention has the potential to resolve all-too-common denture stability issues.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthesis.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The denture revolution is evolving at a frightening pace."

"In recent times we have seen, what I can describe only as strident steps forward, with implant-retained over-dentures, 'teeth-in-a-day' implant procedures and suction solution dentures, all coming into main-stream dentistry."

"We also have clever injection moulding technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and our clinical solutions have never been so appealing."

"Implant dentistry as a resolve for stabilisation issues



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is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference, but the Ultra Suction prosthetics offer yet another possibility.

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qualities without the invasive clinical procedures required for implant work. We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another 'tool' in our commitment to ever-try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations.

"Lower dentures can often be troublesome as stability is compromised by shrinking gums and bone erosion - it's all part of the ageing process. Ill-fitting dentures create painful friction problems on gums and not least, be a source of compromised chewing and embarrassment."

### Reduction

Steven adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste."

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Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, "but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," says Steven. "Can dentures look glamorous? Emphatically, yes - we have taken years off the appearance of some of our patients."

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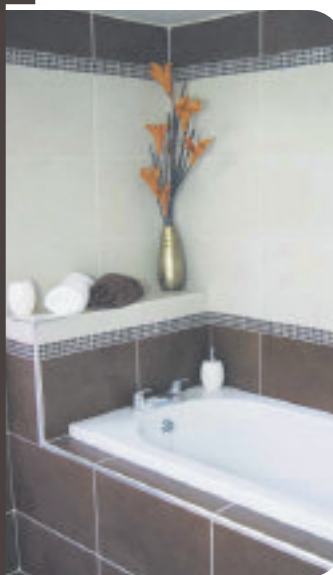
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# Honour for borough's stone lifting strongman

HE has inspired generations of fans with his feats of strength and now has been honoured at a ceremony at the House of Lords.

Shahzada Saleem became a stone lifting star by repeatedly breaking his own records during his long career.

And now the 49-year-old, from Kingswinford, who has five children and four grandchildren, has attended a special event at the Palace of Westminster.

## King

He was given the Iconic Stone Lifter award by peer Lord Nazir Ahmed watched on by friends and family in the rooms of the House of Lords on February 24.

Mr Saleem, known affectionately as King Shazad, said he was proud of the achievement and thanked his family for their support.

"I am truly honoured to receive the Iconic Stone Lifter award. I want to give special thanks to Lord Nazir who invited us at the House of Lords," he said. "A special mention must go to my brothers Mohammed Aurangzeb and Shahzada Tanveer for their support throughout my career and my son Shaz Saleem who did me proud with his speech.

"I want to thank all my fans, without your love and support this award recognition would never have been possible."

Mr Saleem was born in Pakistan but his family moved to England when he was aged just one and settled in Dudley borough.

He was a keen sportsman growing up and was so inspired by the stone lifters that he decided to take up the sport himself in around 1983 aged just 16.



Stone lifter Shahzada Saleem



Mr Saleem at Manchester Mela in 2010

Two years later he became the youngest world champion when he lifted a stone weighing 160kg or around 350lbs at an event in Birmingham when he only weighed around 12 stones himself.

"When people heard about him, they couldn't believe it and that curiosity brought the sport back from the brink really," said his son Shaz.

In stone lifting, competitors lift a huge block off the ground with one hand and press from his chest.

During his career he gathered fans both across Britain eventually setting

a benchmark of 441 lbs or 201kg in 1995.

He also travelled to Pakistan having been challenged to match that mark in the country and he did so in front of a crowd of 50,000 adoring fans.

Since bowing out of the sport he has concentrated on running the family taxi business, Beacon Taxis based in Sedgley, and his own sports academy.

The annual Dudley Mela, showcasing Asian sport, was renamed in his honour Dudley Shazad Mela and Mr Saleem won the Duncan Edwards civic award for sport in 2011.

# Local Weekly Newspapers

## With You All The Way





## 200 staff face axe at food firm

MORE than 200 jobs are to be axed at a major West Midlands food firm.

Freshway Chilled Foods in Wolverhampton will shut after it failed to win a new contract to keep supplying sandwiches to The Foodservice Centre.

A total of 208 people work full time at the Freshway's site, on Stafford Road, and will continue to supply FSC until the contract ends in June. Parent company Tulip said loss of the work meant it would be 'economically unsustainable' to keep the Wolverhampton site running.

Staff were told at a meeting last week, described by a company spokesman as 'emotional'. Many of the workforce have been at Freshway for decades. A consultation has now begun involving Freshway, workers and union representatives.

## Business duo have got a lot of bottle



The two Stuarts in the studio at Red House Glass Cone

IT takes bottle to launch a new business and in the case of two glass craftsmen, that's a lot of bottle.

Stuart Caldicott and Stuart Goodings have started a company recycling old bottles, giving them a new lease of life in quirky decorative items. Past Glass is based at Wordsley's Red House Con.

Now they are hoping to cut local organisations, such as schools, colleges and scout groups, in on the action by asking them to collect and clean bottles, which they will then buy to fashion into fresh objects.

They will pay 10p per bottle, recycling money for local community projects as well as providing the raw material for their products.

"The theme is that this is waste that is 'up-cycled', rather than being thrown away into the bin," said Mr Goodings, aged 41, who lives in Wordsley. "We melt and reshape them into all kinds of item."

The pair work under the group name of Stuarts by Desig. Anyone interested in setting up a bottle collecting service should contact them on (01384) 572037.

## Multi-million pound fund to fix potholes

COUNCILS across the region are in line for more than £3 million to tackle potholes.

The funding from the Government is part of a £14.3 million chest offered to repair roads damaged by the wettest winter on record.

The funding is a one-off payment and offers enough to repair an extra 3.3 million potholes.

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said: "Damage to roads causes misery for drivers and local communities and the severe weather over the last few months has made the problem worse."

"This extra money will help make a real difference to the millions of road users and residents across the West Midlands who rely on local roads, giving them safer and smoother journeys."

Dudley gets £318,757, Sandwell £302,501, Walsall £251,947 and Wolverhampton £231,973.

# Equal pay bill for councils to cost well over £100m

**COUNCILS across the Black Country have spent or set aside more than £110 million to settle claims from thousands of women workers who claim they were not paid the same as men.**

The cost arose because of a change in the rules in 1997 that said councils had to give equal pay not just to people with the same job, but those doing work at a similar level.

It meant that jobs mainly done by women,

such as cleaning and catering, needed to be paid the same as those done mainly by men, such as bin men. The bin men would get bonuses at some councils and these needed to be taken into account.

But it has come at an extraordinarily tough time for the authorities, some of whom say they have lost up to half their Government funding as a result of Coalition-imposed cuts. As it emerges one dinner lady was paid a settlement of £190,000 in Birmingham, Dudley Council confirmed it had 3,800 claimants and has settled 3,300 of them. The cost is so far £52m.

The equal pay claims are a further burden on council budgets which have been squeezed by central government funding cuts, resulting in thousands of jobs being axed.

Sandwell Council has so far settled 6,000 claims at a cost of £33 million, mainly in 2009 and 2010. Wolverhampton City Council set aside £30m to settle hundreds of claims.

Ravi Subramanian, West Midlands regional secretary for trade union Unison, said: "These were people who were underpaid for years. There were jobs done mainly by men that were paid a lot more than jobs done mainly by women."

## Work starts on super cell block

WORK has begun on a multi-million pound jail block that will become the main custody suite for the Black Country.

When completed the new 'super cell block' will replace the majority of cells at police stations in the West Midlands.

It will provide spaces for up to 60 offenders who will be processed and booked in before being bailed or transferred to courts across the area.

Work at the site in Bromford Road, Oldbury began this week and marks the first phase of two purpose-built centres in the West Midlands, with work at a similar site in Holford Drive, Perry Barr due to begin in August.

Construction of the new suite is expected to be completed by June 2015.

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## Women leading way with top police roles

WOMEN are leading the way in policing the West Midlands, with more than half of the region's 10 boroughs now headed by female chief superintendents.

West Midlands Police's local policing units in Wolverhampton, Coventry and Solihull, as well as three in Birmingham, are led by women who together manage more than 3,200 officers, PCSOs and staff.

And the force also has more top posts filled by women than ever before, with Sharon Goosen in charge of the professional standards department, Jo Chilton leading force CID, Sharon Rowe as temporary deputy chief constable, as well as Lisa-Marie Smith heading up the force's legal services team.

Deputy Chief Constable Rowe said: "We're pleased to be making positive steps forward in West Midlands Police while other agencies, particularly the private sector, still see regular accusations of a 'glass ceiling' born out of the small number of women who reach the top in big companies."



Representatives of Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club and local businesses hand over the minibuses

## Cash is donated to help school buy two minibuses

PUPILS can board new minibuses worth more than £30,000 thanks to donations and fundraising.

Staff and students at Sunfield School, near Stourbridge, have taken delivery of two nine seater minibuses.

They will be available to take the youngsters on trips including visiting swimming baths, leisure centres and attractions.

The residential school, in Woodman Lane, Clent, supports children with a range of learning needs including autism.

Volunteers have dug deep to help with the fundraising efforts in recent months. Many have organised events, made donations and taken part in last September's Great Black

Country Run. That money, combined with other charitable donations, totalled the £31,640 needed to buy two Renault Trafic minibuses.

Sunfield chief executive, Michael Frosch, said the minibuses were important for pupils. "It is vital for their development and wellbeing that they have the opportunity to experience and enjoy the local area and people within the community," he said. "These minibuses help open up the world to our young people. Without them these trips for learning and leisure are almost impossible."

Sunfield still needs to raise funds for a car to transport smaller groups. Donations can be made through [www.sunfield.org.uk](http://www.sunfield.org.uk) or [www.justgiving.com/sunfieldminibusappeal](http://www.justgiving.com/sunfieldminibusappeal)

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## Sadness of trust at the death of couple

HEALTH chiefs have expressed their sadness following the death of a couple who battled to live together in the same residential home.

Jim and Joyce Smith finally won their battle to live together at Island Court residential care home in Dudley in January, but within four days 90-year-old Mrs Smith suffered a massive stroke.

She died on February 10, and her husband, a 96-year-old D-Day veteran, died 20 days later, having been unable to see his wife because of his ill health.

They had been separated since Mr Smith went to live in Island Court in September last year, after being discharged from Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital where he had been treated for a kidney complaint.

### Serious

His wife of 44 years was initially told she would have to stay at her flat in Brunel Court, Wombourne, because her condition was not serious enough to warrant full-time care.

But she was eventually allowed to move into Island Court at the end of January after being taken into hospital herself.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust, which manages social care in the county, said it wished to express its sympathy to the family of Mr and Mrs Smith.

A statement issued by the trust added: "As a provider of community health and adult social care services, supporting people to live as independently as possible is one of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust's key priorities. "We constantly review

and reassess the requirements of the needs of all our service users to ensure they receive the appropriate level of care and in the most suitable place.

"In January, we were able to place Mrs Smith with her husband and were very saddened to hear she died shortly after.

"Wherever possible we would want to keep people together and would regular review their needs to ensure that, as their needs change, the care they receive continues to be the most appropriate."

Mrs Smith's daughter Diane Fellows, aged 63, of Gordon Avenue, Lanesfield, said she believed the stress of begin apart had added to her mother's ill health.

She explained: "They were a devoted couple, and it broke my mother's heart when they were apart."

The couple had both been widowed when they met at Diane's wedding on March 17, 1969, and were married a year to the day.

Mr Smith's funeral at Gornal Wood Crematorium last week was on what would have been the couple's 44th wedding anniversary.

## Bishop says that his new job is bostin'

THE new Bishop of Dudley was being ordained at a ceremony in London this week.

Canon Graham Usher is taking over the role and was being ordained and consecrated as a bishop by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, during in a special service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Mr Usher said: "I'm really looking forward, though with some degree of apprehension, to the Ordination and Consecration service in St Paul's Cathedral. I'm humbled that so many people want to be there or have assured me of their prayers. I'm delighted that close friends will be joining the Archbishop of Canterbury and the other bishops in taking part in the service. As they say in the Black Country, it will be bostin'."

Mr Usher will be formally welcomed to the Diocese of Worcester on May 3 at Top Church, High Street, Dudley at 4pm and installed in Worcester Cathedral at 4pm on May 4.



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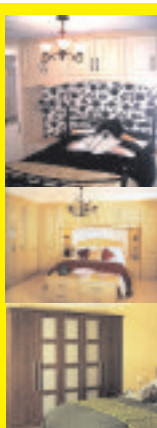


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## Coronation Street

Two days departing June 8



 **PRICE FROM £119**

Manchester is home to the famous Coronation Street set and this is a unique opportunity to visit the former site following the move to MediaCityUK.

Open to the public for a limited time only discover where 53 years of TV history was made.

Quay Street, Manchester is the original home of Coronation Street, one of the most watched programmes on British television. As some of the privileged few allowed on the set for one

last time, share an exclusive opportunity to walk down the famous cobbles of the nation's favourite street and have a picture taken outside the Rovers Return.

The behind-the-scenes tour explores the studios containing some of the soap's best known sets. Visit the cast dressing rooms, reminisce with footage of memorable scenes and iconic props and visit actual room sets opened up to the public for the first time.

This two-day trip also includes a visit to the charming medieval city of Chester, where there will be plenty of time to explore the Rows – two tiers of covered walkways found along the four main streets, and the beautiful red sandstone cathedral. There's also a great variety of shopping from independent boutiques to high street stores and plenty of places for something to eat and drink.

### INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Coronation Street set in Manchester
- Visit to Chester
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by  
Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**Pick of the week**

## Lindisfarne and the Alnwick Gardens

Three days departing June 13 and Sept 19

 **PRICE FROM £169**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Visits to Lindisfarne, Durham and Bamburgh
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Chelsea Flower Show, Wisley and Hampton Court

Four days departing May 22

 **PRICE FROM £319**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half board accommodation
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace Gardens
- Entrance to RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- Entrance to RHS Gardens Wisley
- Free time in London and Windsor
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Chatsworth House and the Peak District

Two days departing July 20

 **PRICE FROM £89.<sup>95</sup>**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth House and gardens
- Tour of the Peak District
- Evening entertainment
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Longleat Safari and Adventure Park

Two days departing June 21 and October 11

 **PRICE FROM £119\***

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Day ticket to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

\*Child price from £109 - conditions apply

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Rail and Steam

Four days departing August 1

 **PRICE FROM £299**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Two three-course evening meals
- Ticket for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Return journey on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
- Circular Cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott
- Visits to Edinburgh, Aberfoyle and Gretna Green
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Emmerdale and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing  
May 9, June 27, September 19

 **PRICE FROM £139**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Emmerdale country, Last of the Summer Wine country and the Yorkshire Dales
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Wimbledon

Two days departing July 5 and 6

 **PRICE FROM £139**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No.1 Court to see the finals of the Junior and Veteran events
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Beamish and the North York Moors Railway

Four days departing June 20, October 10

 **PRICE FROM £249**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Admission to Beamish - The Living Museum of the North
- Ride on the North York Moors Railway
- Visits to Whitby, Harrogate and Richmond
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Dubrovnik, the Dalmatian Coast and Montenegro

Eight days various departure dates

 **PRICE FROM £829**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Dubrovnik
- Visits to Trogir and Mostar
- Tour of Montenegro
- Visit to Split and tour of the Emperor Diocletian's monumental palace
- Visit to Krka National Park and its waterfalls
- Escorted by a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

## Amsterdam, Arnhem and a Bridge too Far

Four days departing May 30

 **PRICE FROM £249**

- Return coach travel and ferry crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to the Arnhem Oosterbeek Military Cemetery
- Entrance to the Airborne Museum
- Free time in Arnhem
- Full day in Amsterdam
- Services of a tour manager and tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Lake Bled and Ljubljana

Eight days various departure dates

 **PRICE FROM £659**

- Return flights
- Seven nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Lake Bled
- Guided city tour to Ljubljana
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)





### Folk highlights from city scenes

BUSKING folk rockers Blackbeard's Tea Party from York will be bringing their eclectic style of music to the Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, on Thursday, April 3. Supported by Blatherskites.

Wolverhampton singer/songwriter Dan Whitehouse is playing the Hare & Hounds supporting Simone Felice on Wednesday, tickets are £12. Before that, Dan has a Folk For Free gig today at Birmingham Symphony Hall Bar at 5.30pm.

Other highlights include a sold-out 40th anniversary Runrig concert at the Symphony Hall on Saturday and Scottish quartet The Tannerhill Weavers on Wednesday at The Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath.

### Jasper bringing rock mates on tour

JASPER Carrott is bringing his Stand Up And Rock comedy and music tour to Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham. He will be joined by veteran rock drummer Bev Bevan, from The Move and ELO, his Move bandmate guitarist Trevor Burton with Geoff Turton, formerly ex-Rockin' Berries, and Joy Strachan-Brain of Quill.

The show is at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 16, Dudley Town Hall (October 16), Birmingham Town Hall (Oct 21), Sutton Coldfield Town Hall (Oct 30 and 31) and Lichfield Garrick Theatre (November 11 and 12).

# Miranda invites her chums to join her for a big party

## A classic bite of the Big Apple

LEONARD Bernstein's classic 1950s musical West Side Story, relocating Romeo and Juliet to the youth gangs of New York, has been revived in a spectacular production coming to Birmingham.

Featuring popular songs Somewhere, Maria, Tonight, I Feel Pretty and America, and using the original Jerome Robbins choreography, West Side Story is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 1 to 12.

It stars Katie Hall as Maria. She played Christine in The Phantom of the Opera in the West End and on tour. She was also a contestant in the BBC TV search for Oliver's Nancy, I'd Do Anything. Opposite her as Tony is Louis Maskell, whose credits include Scrooge The Musical.

Call the box office on 0844 871 3011.



A dance scene from New York musical West Side Story Picture by Alastair Muir

### QUEEN of comedy Miranda Hart brings her 'My, What I Call, Live Show' to the West Midlands for four mega-venue performances during April.

Hart's hilarious but essentially gentle blend of slapstick and self-deprecating humour has been a massive success with the public via her eponymously titled sit-com which has run for three series on BBC TV. She has been warmly received by an audience fed up with the rampant cynicism, crudeness and cruelty of today's comedy scene.

The naughty but nice comedienne will be inviting chums to join her for a party — complete with dancing and karaoke — at the LG Arena on Friday, April 4. She returns to the city, this time at central venue the NIA, for three consecutive nights from April 8. That number of big venue gigs puts her in the comedy elite of stadium-filling humorists such as Michael McIntyre, Eddie Izzard, Lee Evans and Peter Kay.

For Miranda ticket information contact 0844 338 8000 about the LG and 0844 338 0338 for NIA dates.

Theatre highlights this week include the arrival of vintage musical Seven Brides For Seven Brothers at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Monday for six days. The American frontier tale stars Sam Attwater and Helena Blackman.



Well hello it's Miranda Hart

Also at the Grand until Saturday is hard-hitting play The Two Worlds of Charlie F which features serving and former soldiers and looks at the impact of injury on themselves, their family and friends.

With the gap between rich and poor apparently growing, this may be an ideal time for Birmingham Rep's revival of Brecht and Weill's Mack The Knife musical The Threepenny Opera, continuing until April 12.

### X-Factor stars and 80s nostalgia

LIVERPUDLIAN X-Factor runner-up Rebecca Ferguson is in concert at the Symphony Hall tonight, while the most recent crop of X-Factor stars — including 2013 winner Sam Bailey play the LG Arena tomorrow and Saturday.

Other highlights include the return of Martin Fry's 80s outfit ABC, ready to shoot a Poison Arrow again tomorrow at the Symphony Hall. Nostalgia for that era continues at Bilston's Robin 2 with Big Country on Saturday featuring original members Bruce Watson and Mark Brzezicki. Boy George at Digbeth's Institute on Tuesday will probably put emphasis on his new album This Is What I Do rather than Culture Club memories.

### The dream still goes on for Susan

JUST a few tickets are left for Susan Boyle's concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, April 2, as part of her first major nationwide tour.

The 52-year-old Scottish singer's last appearance in the city was a brief performance as part of autobiographical show I Dreamed A Dream at Birmingham Hippodrome in 2012.

Next month it will be five years since the famous TV moment on Britain's Got Talent when the frumpy spinster from West Lothian blew apart viewers' preconceptions with her soaring voice. Call the box office on 0121 345 0600.

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SATURDAY'S TV 29.03.14

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Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



**Amanda Mealing**

**Casualty**  
**BBC1, 9.20pm**  
Medical drama-lovers may be rather confused about which show they're watching tonight. That's because former Holby City stalwart Amanda Mealing, better known as ex-director of surgery Connie Beauchamp, is joining the Casualty staff. She's reprising her role as the manipulative and feisty medic who might be too busy saving a man from prison to rub her new colleagues up the wrong way on her first day at work. Another devious female – Ash's daughter Ella – does, however, get up to mischief, which leaves her dad with no option but to treat her with tough love.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.00** Live Formula 1 – Malaysian Grand Prix: Qualifying. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Formula 1 – Malaysian Grand Prix: Qualifying Replay. **3.30** Reflex Celebrity Special. **4.15** Final Score. **5.15** Film: Shrek. (2001)

**6.40** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

**7.00** **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the semi-final, in which the remaining acts perform individually and with their coaches. Plus, performances by Enrique Iglesias and Shakira.

**9.10** **The National Lottery Live.** Kate Garraway reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball draws, with music by Lisa Stansfield.

**9.20** **Casualty.** Former director of surgery Connie Beauchamp returns to the hospital as a consultant in the ED and makes quite an impression on her first day. Ash takes his wayward daughter in hand.

**10.10** BBC News: Weather.

**10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Arsenal v Manchester City at the Emirates Stadium and Crystal Palace v Chelsea at Selhurst Park; National Lottery Update.

**11.55** **The Football League Show.** Including highlights of Burnley v Leicester City.

**2.15** (BST) Weather. **2.20** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.05** Film: The Saint in New York. (1938) **7.15** Film: The Saint Strikes Back. (1939) **8.20** The Living Planet. (R) **9.15** The Living Planet. (R) **10.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **1.00** The Hairys Bakers. (R) **1.15** Film: The 39 Steps. (1935) **2.40** James Mason: Talking Pictures. (R) **3.20** Film: North by Northwest. (1959) **5.30** Mountain Gorilla. (R)

**6.30** **Flog It!** Tracy Martin and Charlie Ross examine a Zulu shield and spear and an arts and crafts candlestick at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford.

**7.30** **Dad's Army.** Wilson struggles to get the platoon out of the pub and on parade, leaving Mainwaring to tackle a suspected IRA terrorist. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

**8.00** **The Perfect Morecambe & Wise.** The duo put a new spin on making breakfast.

**8.30** **The Plantagenets.** Robert Bartlett examines how the dynasty fought to expand its power across the British Isles and win back land in France, and looks at the creation of a national parliament. (R)

**9.30** **Ol.** With Jeremy Clarkson and Bill Bailey. (R)

**10.00** **Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle.** The comedian explores the topic of London.

**10.30** **Film: We Need to Talk About Kevin.** (2011) Premiere. Drama, with Tilda Swinton.

**12.15** Film: I Am Love. (2009) **3.10** (BST) This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Animals. (R) **6.55** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Scooby. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Dinner Date. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.05** The Unforgettable Gordon Jackson. (R) **12.35** Film: Junior. (1994) **2.35** The Chase. (R) **3.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

**6.00** **You've Been Framed! Top 100 Shockers.** Harry Hill presents a countdown of 100 memorable videos not for the faint-hearted, featuring damage, destruction, close shaves and near misses.

**7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Georgie duo take control of Peter Andre in I'm a Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear and Little Ant and Dec talk politics with London Mayor Boris Johnson.

**8.25** **The Cube.** A Londoner hopes to win enough money to take his family to Australia, while a police officer from the West Midlands thinks she is tough enough to walk away with the jackpot.

**9.25** **Law & Order: UK.** A skeleton is found in the boot of a car.

**10.25** **The Americans.** The spies infiltrate a military contractor's facility.

**11.25** ITV News; Weather.

**11.40** **Through the Keyhole.** Eamonn Holmes and Martine McCutcheon join Dave Berry.

**12.35** Jackpot247. **4.00** (BST) In Plain Sight. (R) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Grid. **7.00** Train World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **11.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **11.40** The Simpsons. (R) **12.10** The Simpsons. (R) **12.40** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. **4.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 Racing: The Dubai World Cup.

**6.35** Channel 4 News.

**7.05** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** Coulson and the team's search for the Clairvoyant sees them boarding a mystery train that seems to be headed for certain destruction. Clark Gregg stars in the fantasy adventure. (R)

**8.00** **Hostages.** Brian decides to go to the police, Duncan makes a decision he will bitterly regret, Logan gives Sandrine one more chance and Nina hears shocking news.

**9.00** **Film: The Mechanic.** (2011) A solitary hitman teaches his murdered mentor's son the tricks of the trade so they can join forces to seek vengeance. Action thriller remake, starring Jason Statham and Ben Foster.

**10.45** **Film: Beverly Hills Cop III.** (1994) Maverick cop Axel Foley's investigation of a murder leads him to a counterfeiting ring operating from a theme park. Comedy adventure sequel, with Eddie Murphy and Judge Reinhold.

**12.50** **Film: Notorious.** (2009) **3.50** (BST) Abductees. (R) **4.05** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** Market Man. (R) **10.35** Film: The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) Second World War adventure, starring George Segal. **12.55** Film: A Bridge Too Far. (1977) Fact-based Second World War drama, with Dirk Bogarde. **4.15** Film: Joe Kidd. (1972) Western, starring Clint Eastwood. **5.55** Film: Columbo: Mind Over Mayhem. (1974) Detective drama, with Peter Falk.

**7.20** **Longmire.** The discovery of a woman's body leads Walt and Vic to the seedy strip bars of an oil-rich town in the next county, where they find a link to a Mennonite community.

**8.10** **NCIS.** Gibbs tries to find out why the agents are being forced to take polygraph tests, while Tony and Jeanne are held hostage by a drug dealer. (R)

**9.05** 5 News Weekend.

**9.10** **Greatest Kids' TV Shows.** Countdown of the 50 best-loved British children's TV shows, with contributions by Phillip Schofield, Chris Tarrant, Dan Harmer, Johnny Ball, Peter Purves and Valerie Singleton. (R)

**12.10** **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming. **4.00** (BST) Wildlife SOS. Newly hatched ducklings are rescued from a drain. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. Keren and Rebecca argue. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. Double-bill. Daphne is in a foul mood. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. The children argue about their hats. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. Ellen the ostrich learns about left and right. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. Otto climbs a tree. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **7.20** Doctor Who **8.15** Top Gear **9.20** Film: Old School (2003) **10.50** Family Guy

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** David Attenborough's First Life **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunk History **9.00** Inspector De Luca **10.50** Chas & Dave: Last Orders **11.50** Squeeze: Take Me I'm Yours

**ITV2**  
**3.45** Film: Honey (2003) **5.40** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.50** Film: Whip It (2009) **10.00** Celebrity Juice: The Big Reunion Special **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.20** Film: The Butterfly Effect (2004)

**ITV3**  
**3.30** Film: Man About the House (1974) **5.20** Inspector Morse **7.25** Rosamund & Thyme **8.25** Doctor Martin **9.25** Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey **10.25** Cold Blood

**ITV4**  
**3.55** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **6.10** Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) Second World War adventure, starring Clint Eastwood. **9.00** Film: The Blues Brothers (1980) **11.35** Film: The Parole Officer (2001)

**E4**  
**4.00** 2 Broke Girls **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Because I Said So (2007) **11.05** Rude Tube: All Things Weird and Wonderful

**Film4**  
**2.55** Swiss Family Robinson (1960) **5.35** Ice Age (2002) **7.10** Legend (1985) **9.00** Hanna (2011) Action thriller, starring Saoirse Ronan. **11.10** Wanted (2008)

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## CHOICE



Shaun Evans

Endeavour  
ITV, 8pm

The summer of 1966 – it may have been the era of Swinging London and England winning the World Cup, but as Morse prequel Endeavour returns for a highly anticipated new series, don't expect to see the young copper grooving around Oxford with a smile on his face and a copy of The Beatles' Revolver tucked under his arm. Instead, the first episode finds Morse (Shaun Evans) under pressure as he returns to work following a four-month absence, only to find himself investigating the death of an unidentified man, who plummets from the top of a council building.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **8.00** Live Formula 1 – Malaysian Grand Prix. **11.15** Sunday Politics. **12.30** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** NoRuZ: The Persian Spring. **1.45** Formula 1 – Malaysian Grand Prix Replay. **3.45** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **4.15** Regional Programme. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

**6.05** **Blandings.** Connie plans to marry Freddie off to Sir Gregory's niece. Last in the series.

**6.35** **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**7.00** **Countryfile.** Matt Baker helps out on his family farm in Co Durham, Adam Henson finds sheep in Cornwall more suited to the Swiss Alps and Jules Hudson visits the Severn Valley Railway, including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team visit Scone Palace, near Perth, where items include an ugly family brooch, a 15th-century book, 30-year-old T-shirts and a 230-year-old tea caddy. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

**9.00** **The Musketeers.** A rift develops between the friends when they discover d'Artagnan knows Milady, giving the Cardinal's spy the ammunition she needs to wreak her revenge. Last in the series.

**10.00** **BBC News:** Regional News.

**10.25** **Match of the Day 2.**

**11.25** **Football League Trophy Highlights.**

**12.00** **Weatherview.** **12.05** **BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.00** **Countryfile.** (R) **7.00** **Gardeners' World.** (R) **7.30** **Match of the Day.** (R) **9.00** **The Andrew Marr Show.** **10.00** **The Big Questions.** **11.00** **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **12.30** **Living Famously.** (R) **1.30** **Film:** Foreign Correspondent. (1940) **3.25** **Film:** I Confess. (1953) **5.00** **Flog It!**

**6.00** **The Hairy Bikers: Restoration Road Trip.** Si King and Dave Myers work on steam train the Night Owl, forging a steel wheel taller than they are for the biggest locomotive restoration in Britain. Last in the series. (R)

**7.00** **Great Barrier Reef.** Monty Halls explores Australia's underwater ecosystem, beginning with a look at the coral reef's structure and the many species of wildlife that inhabit it. (R)

**8.00** **Border Country: The Story of Britain's Lost Middleland.** Part one of two. Historian and MP Rory Stewart examines the impact and legacy of Hadrian's Wall, exploring the landscape, oral history and archaeology of the region.

**9.00** **Louis Theroux's LA Stories.** Louis explores the American attitude to death as he visits Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in West Hollywood, where he meets people battling against serious illnesses.

**10.00** **QI XL.** Extended edition. With Julia Zemirow, Sue Perkins and Ross Noble. (R)

**10.45** **Top of the Pops 1977: Big Hits.** With Rod Stewart, Queen and the Stranglers.

**11.45** **Film: War Requiem.** (1989)

**1.10** **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R)

**2.10** **Holby City.** (R) **3.10** **Silk.** (R)

**4.10** **This Is BBC Two.**

## ITV

**6.00** **CITV: Dino Dan.** **6.10** **Dino Dan.** (R) **6.25** **Matt Hatter Chronicles.** (R) **6.45** **Animals.** (R) **6.55** **Animals.** (R) **7.00** **Animals.** (R) **7.10** **Om Nom Stories.** (R) **7.15** **Om Nom Stories.** (R) **7.20** **Sooty.** (R) **7.30** **Scrambled!** **9.25** **ITV News.** **9.30** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.30** **The Unforgettable Kenneth Williams.** (R) **11.00** **ITV News.**

**11.10** **River Monsters.** **12.10** **Agatha Christie's Marple.** (R) **2.05** **Big Star's Little Star.** (R) **3.05** **Film: Moonraker.** (1979) **5.35** **Regional Programme.** **5.50** **ITV News.**

**6.00** **Catchphrase Mother's Day Special.** Kimberley Walsh, David Walliams and Emma Willis are joined by their mothers to "see it and say it" in an attempt to win money for their chosen charities.

**7.00** **Surprise Surprise Mother's Day Special.** Holly Willoughby meets a mum who invented a romper suit for babies in neonatal units, wrestler John Cena gives a fan the VIP treatment and Boyzone surprise a radio station founder.

**8.00** **Endeavour.** New series. Shaun Evans returns as the young Inspector Morse in the first of four feature-length episodes. A baffling suicide throws Morse in at the deep end.

**10.00** **ITV News at Ten: Weather.**

**10.15** **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Geri Halliwell.** The former Spice Girl talks about fame, family and relationships. (R)

**11.15** **The Crocodile Hunter Diaries.** (R)

**11.45** **Premiership Rugby Union.**

**12.40** **The Store.** **2.45** **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **4.10** **ITV**

**SuperScrippers.** (R) **4.55** **Hugh's 3 Good Things.** (R) **5.05** **Deal or No Deal.** (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** **Arenacross.** (R) **6.35** **Arenacross.** (R) **7.00** **Arenacross.** (R) **7.30** **Mark Webber Tasmania Challenge.** **8.30** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00** **Frasier.** (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch.** **12.30** **Secret Eaters.** (R) **1.35** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.05** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.35** **How I Met Your Mother.** **3.00** **How I Met Your Mother.** **3.30** **The Simpsons.** (R) **4.00** **The Simpsons.** (R) **4.30** **Deal or No Deal.** **5.30** **Film: Home Alone.** (1990) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin.

**7.30** **Channel 4 News.**

**8.00** **The Dambusters' Great Escape: Secret History.** The story of the RAF's successful mission to sink the German battleship Tirpitz in November 1944, with eyewitness accounts from surviving crew, fighter pilots and sailors.

**9.00** **Film: The Woman in Black.** (2012) Premiere. A lawyer visits a village to put a deceased client's affairs in order, but finds her house haunted by a vengeful ghost. Horror, with Daniel Radcliffe and Ciaran Hinds.

**10.50** **Film: Orphan.** (2009) A couple adopt a nine-year-old Russian girl from an orphanage, but the wife begins to suspect the child may be dangerously disturbed. Horror, with Vera Farmiga and Peter Sarsgaard.

**1.00** **The Good Wife.** (R) **1.45** **The Hotel.** (R) **2.40** **Secret Removers.** A design-conscious couple in Aberdeen. (R) **3.40** **Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R) **4.00** **SuperScrippers.** (R) **4.55** **Hugh's 3 Good Things.** (R) **5.05** **Deal or No Deal.** (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15** **Fifi and the Flowerbots.** (R) **6.25** **Bubble Guppies.** (R) **6.35** **The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.50** **Chloe's Closet.** (R) **7.00** **Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) **7.10** **Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25** **Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.35** **City of Friends.** (R) **7.45** **Toby's Travelling Circus.** (R) **7.55** **Little Princesses.** (R) **8.10** **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.20** **Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **8.35** **Rupert Bear.** (R) **8.50** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.05** **Jelly Jamm.** (R) **9.20** **LazyTown.** (R)

**9.50** **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **9.55** **Milkshake! Show Songs.** (R) **10.00** **Power Rangers Super Samurai.** (R) **10.35** **Power Rangers Megaforce.** (R)

**11.10** **Film: Hoodwinked.** (2005)

**12.35** **Film: Gremlins 2: The New Batch.** (1990) **2.40** **Film: Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot.** (1992) **4.20** **Film: A Bug's Life.** (1998)

**6.10** **Mum of the Year 2014.** Awards ceremony honouring courageous and inspirational women.

**7.05** **5 News Weekend.**

**7.10** **Film: Bulletproof Monk.** (2003) Martial arts thriller, starring Chow Yun-Fat.

**9.00** **Top 40 Ultimate Action Movies.** Vinnie Jones presents a countdown of the best films from the action genre as voted for by viewers. Featuring contributions by Gary Busey, John Carpenter and McG.

**11.55** **Film: Point Break.** (1991) **2.20** **SuperCasino.** **3.05** **Benidorm ER.** (R) **4.00** **Wildlife SOS.** (R) **4.25** **Make It Big.** (R) **4.50** **The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.10** **Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.30** **The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.40** **Hana's Helpline.** (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** **The Voice UK** **9.15** **Hair: The four remaining contestants fight for a place in the final.** **10.15** **Family Guy** **11.00** **American Dad!** **11.25** **Bluestone 42**

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** **Timeshift: Full Throttle – The Glory Days of British Motorbikes** **8.00** **The Review Show** **9.00** **The Post Who Loved the War: Ivor Gurney** **10.00** **Mark Lawson Talks to Julian Barnes** **11.00** **What Do Artists Do All Day?**

**ITV2**

**2.45** **Film: Kangaroo Jack** (2003) **4.35** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** **6.00** **Film: Casper** (1995)

**8.00** **Film: Two Weeks Notice** (2002) **10.50** **The Only Way Is Essex** **10.50** **Party Wright Around the World**

**ITV3**

**3.50** **Rosemary & Thyme** **4.55** **Agatha Christie's Poirot** **8.00** **The Zoo** **9.00** **Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was** **10.05** **Film: Parenthood** (1989)

**ITV4**

**10.30** **Live British Touring Car Championship.** Round one from Brands Hatch in Kent. **6.00** **Touring Car Legends** **9.00** **Film: Premiership Rugby Union** **9.00** **Film: Nighthawks** (1981)

**E4**

**3.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **4.30** **How I Met Your Mother** **5.00** **The Tomorrow People** **6.00** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **6.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **8.00** **Film: Grease** (1978) **10.15** **Rude Tube: All Things Weird and Wonderful**

**Film4**

**3.00** **Honey, I Blew Up the Kid** (1992) **4.45** **Holy Man** (1998) **6.55** **Three Men and a Cradle** (1987) **9.00** **Hitman** (2007) **10.45** **Rising Sun** (1993)

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Film Choices

**MONDAY**  
**Blood Work, Channel 5, 11pm**  
A former FBI agent recuperating from a heart transplant is asked to track down his donor's murderer, and discovers that, far from being a random incident, the crime bears all the hallmarks of a serial killer who has evaded capture for years. Thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Anjelica Huston. (2002)

**Little Children, Channel 4, 12.15am**  
Two suburban parents stuck in unhappy marriages seek solace from their dull lives in a clandestine affair. Meanwhile, the arrival of a convicted sex offender in the neighbourhood sends their tightly-knit community into an uproar of suspicion and fear. Drama, starring Kate Winslet and Patrick Wilson. (2006)

**TUESDAY**  
**Skin, BBC1, 11.35pm**  
A black baby in apartheid-era South Africa is born to white parents, who were unaware of their mixed-race ancestry. During her childhood, they fight for her right to be treated the same as white children, but when she falls in love with a black man in her teens, her father disowns her, and she is confronted with the harsh racial divisions in the country. Fact-based drama, with Sophie Okonedo and Sam Neill. (2008)



Michael Clayton, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Holiday, ITV, 10.35pm**  
Two single women living on opposite sides of the Atlantic agree to exchange houses over the Christmas holidays. In their new surroundings, both women unexpectedly encounter prospective partners, but as the house swap draws to a close, difficult decisions have to be made about their blossoming relationships. Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz. (2006)

**THURSDAY**  
**NYC: Tornado Terror, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
New York's deputy mayor receives a warning from his estranged meteorologist wife that the city is about to be hit by a massive tornado, but convincing the residents of the scale of the impending danger proves an uphill struggle. Disaster thriller, starring Nicole de Boer. (2008)

**FRIDAY**  
**Michael Clayton, BBC2, 11.05pm**  
A troubled attorney takes over a high-profile case when a colleague suffers a nervous breakdown and threatens to blow the whistle on corporate corruption. However, as he tries to limit the damage, he uncovers damning proof that will expose a secret group of conspirators – who are prepared to commit murder to keep the evidence buried. Legal thriller, starring George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson and an Oscar-winning Tilda Swinton. (2007)

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Pick of the Week

New case is too close to home for Martha

Never mix business with pleasure, and never work with your loved ones.

Martha really should have kept those ideas at the forefront of her mind before agreeing to take on the case of her ex-boyfriend Sean.

Instead, she's up to her neck in problems, most of them caused by the fact that she can't consider the facts coolly and dispassionately because of their shared history – and his reappearance has shaken the legal eagle in other ways too.

"Martha has to start to reassess what is really important in her life," says Maxine Peake, who plays her. "This person's arrival forces Martha to remember the person she was and why she embarked on the career she did."

"She realises that things have changed greatly and that her teenage goals and ideals have gone somewhat out of the window."

It's clear to regular viewers that Martha has convinced herself that Sean wouldn't lie to her, and so is blind to the massive holes in his story – holes so big, Clive could repeatedly drive a lorry through them without touching the sides.

In fact, he repeatedly tells her something along similar lines, but instead of making her see sense, his words merely make her dig her heels in and become more determined than ever to clear Sean's name.

"Clive hates her ex-boyfriend and they end up having a massive fight," says Rupert Penry-Jones, Peake's co-star since the series began. "It took a while to shoot but even longer to get over the bruises – we were a bit bashed up! We were throwing each other around and against walls, but how much of it will end up in the final cut I don't know."

To make matters worse, Martha's behaviour makes her colleagues wonder if she has what it takes to lead the firm into the future – and she herself is forced to question her long-term career as a barrister after the verdict is read out...

But what impact will the trial have on Martha and Clive's relationship? After all, it's clear there's a real spark between them. Could they have a future together after all that's happened?

Perry-Jones isn't convinced they do: "I don't know why he decides to suddenly tell her how he feels, but I don't think you can always explain these things."

"He's looking at her: she's dancing, she's free, so he thinks he'll give it a go. I think there's always hope for them. I think she's who he wants, in the end, but I'm not sure he'll ever get her."

"Martha likes being opposite Clive in court," says Peake of the bond between the two characters. "He's a great barrister so she has to up her game. It can create conflict, but they both enjoy competing against each other. That's where their spark is created."

"Whether Martha could handle or want a serious long-term relationship is another thing..."



Maxine Peake stars in Silk, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

**MONDAY**  
**The Widower**  
ITV, 9pm  
This drama, charting Malcolm Webster's 13-year trail of murder and deceit, has gone down a storm with the masses; the opening episode alone attracted more than five million viewers. In the latest offering, Malcolm (Reece Shearsmith) and Simone's (Archie Panjabi) relationship is like a runaway train; they are engaged and undergoing IVF treatment for a child. However, DS Charlie Henry (John Hannah) gets suspicious when Malcolm is treasurer of an angling club, and is secretly embezzling funds. Raiding Webster's home he finds stolen laptops and an unlicensed firearm. Although Malcolm is taken in for questioning, Charlie is fuming when Malcolm is cleared of the embezzlement, theft and firearms offences.

**Our Gay Wedding: The Musical**  
Channel 4, 10pm  
On Saturday March 29, same-sex marriage becomes legal in England and Wales, and Benjamin Till and Nathan Taylor will be one of the first couples to tie the knot. But that's not the only thing that makes their ceremony so special.

Benjamin is a composer, whose credits include A1: The Road Musical, while Nathan is a performer who has appeared in numerous West End shows. So, how better to celebrate their historic union than with a full-on musical production, including sung vows and ensemble numbers featuring the whole congregation? If you weren't lucky enough to get an invite, Channel 4 is bringing us coverage of this unique occasion.

**TUESDAY**  
**Live UEFA Champions League**  
ITV, 7.30pm  
The quarter-final stage gets under way tonight, as two of Europe's elite battle it out in a first-leg contest. Chelsea are among the clubs involved at this stage following their 3-1 aggregate victory over Galatasaray in the previous round, and Jose Mourinho will have hopes of winning this trophy for the third time, having previously guided FC Porto and Inter Milan to victory. Despite their domestic troubles, Manchester United have also made it this far, even though they lost the first leg of their last-16 tie 2-0 away to Olympiakos. The Red Devils fought back to win 3-0 in the return match at Old Trafford thanks to a Robin van Persie half-trick, in what was probably the highlight of David Moyes' United tenure to date. However, both English sides will have their work out doing winning the trophy given the last-eight line-up.

**New Worlds**  
Channel 4, 9pm  
This new four-part drama, written and created by Peter Flannery and Martine Brant, explores a seldom dramatised strain of English history, looking at how the revolutionary spirit of the Civil War didn't necessarily end with the restoration. Set in the 1680s, it follows four young people who aren't necessarily interested in restoring the status quo. The action begins in Hadley, Massachusetts, where

Colonel William Goffe, an English fugitive and one of the last surviving men to have signed Charles I's death warrant, finds himself helping to protect the town from a Native American attack. Meanwhile, in Oxfordshire, 21-year-old Beth Fanshawe, daughter of the Countess of Seacourt, is kidnapped by the rebellious Abe Goffe.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Clegg v Farage Debate**  
BBC2, 7pm  
For what seemed like an eternity, we essentially had a two-party system in this country. Before and during the last election, though, the Liberal Democrats rose to a previously unheard-of popularity, and today enjoy more MPs in the House of Commons than ever before. But now a new challenger seems to be emerging, as UKIP, or the UK Independence Party, come to the fore. Could it be that we're moving towards an open, four-party system?

Here, the leaders of the two underdogs, go head-to-head in a live debate about the country's place within Europe. Nick Clegg has a good record in such debates, while his counterpart Nigel Farage is something of an unknown quantity.

**THURSDAY**  
**Ade at Sea**  
ITV, 8.30pm  
This week, jovial sailor Adrian Edmondson sets off for the north-west coast of England, and travels the Mersey to Liverpool. "For 200 years, Liverpool has been the north of England's link with the riches of the world," explains Ade, happily covering similar ground to Tony Robinson's similar Channel 4 documentary the other week. In the early 19th century, 40 per cent of the world's trade passed through Liverpool, so little wonder it proves a magnetic draw for documentary-makers. Ade's trek starts at Eastham, where the Manchester Ship Canal connects with the river. Aside from investigating the crucial role of tugboats in the 1800s, he meets three generations of a family who run the tugboat business on today's canal.

**FRIDAY**  
**Martin Clunes & a Lion Called Mudge**  
ITV, 9pm  
To say Martin Clunes is busy is an understatement. When he's not plugging the sixth series of Doc Martin on DVD, he's busy working on a future two-part show for ITV observing man's different relationships with different animals around the world. Then there's this one-off in the Born Free vein. "It's so exciting," enthuses Martin. "For two years I've been trying to make a film about Tony Fitzjohn, who used to live and work with George Adamson. They lived at this place called Kora, where all the famous photos of George with the lions were taken. The Somalis burnt the camp to the ground, but the last couple of years, Tony's rebuilt it, stick by stick."

## MISS SAIGON

NEARLY 25 years on, Miss Saigon has shown its enduring popularity by setting a new box office record ahead of its return to London in May this year.

The musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg sees Puccini's Madama Butterfly relocated to Saigon in 1975 and tells the story of a young Vietnamese bar worker called Kim who falls in love with a GI called Chris.

Miss Saigon opens at the Prince Edward Theatre in May, the production's 25th anniversary year. Book your break now choosing from one of the options below.

### Coach inclusive breaks

#### Two days

**Selected weekend departures**

**Saturday Night** from £164<sup>95\*\*</sup>

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- A ticket for an evening performance Miss Saigon\*
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

**Dine and Dance** from £169<sup>95\*\*</sup>

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- A ticket for a matinee performance of Miss Saigon\*
- After dinner disco in your hotel on Saturday evening
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

### Rail inclusive breaks

#### Two or three days

**Departs most weekends**

**Saturday Night** from £164<sup>95\*\*</sup>

- Return standard rail travel from your chosen station
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- A ticket for an evening performance of Miss Saigon\*
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

**Theatre Showstopper** from £234<sup>95\*\*</sup>

- Return coach travel
- Two-nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- A top-priced ticket for Miss Saigon\*
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply.

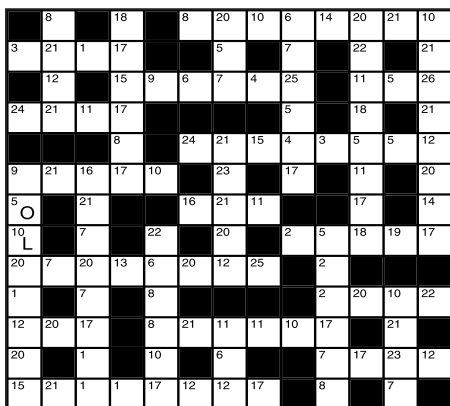
\*Other West End shows are also available to book. Further details can be found online or in our Theatre brochures. \*\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

**For a brochure or a list of all our current breaks call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999**  
(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to [expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://expressandstar.com/starextratravel)  
Please read brochures/web pages for full information plus terms and conditions  
Coach pick-up points offered are: Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Telford and Shrewsbury



## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	E	F	Q	U	P	D	X	Y	B	I	H	T	W
14	V	N	S	K	Z	A	O	R	G	L	M	J	C

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

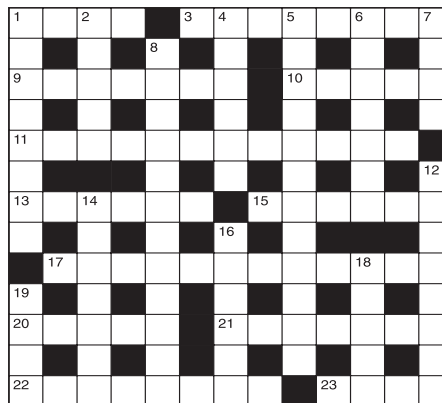
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. Yet she may be a hit with the boys (4)
3. Your ills may turn out to be imaginary (8)
9. It is very boring and is due to be altered (7)
10. Aptly fly around it (5)
11. Didn't allow to succeed? (12)
13. Go back to bed? (6)
15. Come as profit, we hear, to a ship's company (6)
17. Useless demonstration of hunger marchers? (5,7)
20. On credit have five shillings (5)
21. The sweet smell of anger? (7)
22. Giving no answers (8)
23. Archaeological accommodation? (4)

## Down

1. They produce passes when being charged (8)
2. Apparently these teams are not the tops! (5)
4. It makes no difference to these girls if I join them (6)
5. Would a brunette winning a beauty contest be such a wrong selection? (6,6)
6. In a knockabout we are able to last longer (7)
7. You repeatedly don't finish with this toy (2-2)
8. Monopolise rocks that are important in building (6,6)
12. Type of set meals suitable for vegetarians? (8)
14. Ring me first when there's a disagreement about leisure (4,3)
16. It's a matter of choice (6)
18. Nun that is upset by lack of interest (5)
19. Mark some golfers' cards (4)



## Quick Clues:

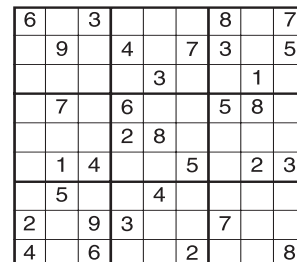
## Across

1. Stitched (4)
3. Obtained (8)
9. Suggest (7)
10. Put off (5)
11. Scottish dance (8,4)
13. Pay back (6)
15. Gay (6)
17. Alliances (12)
20. Oblivion (5)
21. Voter (7)
22. Parasol (8)
23. Responsibility (4)

## Down

1. Precious stone (8)
2. Incorrect (5)
4. Purifies (6)
5. Undergarments (12)
6. Meditate (7)
7. Challenge (4)
8. Place for voting (7,5)
12. Blames (8)
14. Servant (7)
16. Really (6)
18. Frequently (5)
19. With the addition of (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	1	3	7	9	6	4	2	8
8	7	2	5	1	4	3	9	6
4	6	9	2	8	3	1	5	7
9	5	6	1	7	8	2	4	3
1	8	4	9	3	2	7	6	5
2	3	7	6	4	5	8	1	9
7	4	5	3	6	1	9	8	2
6	9	8	4	2	7	5	3	1
3	2	1	8	5	9	6	7	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Arbiter; 7 Pairs; 9 Seems; 10 Chinese; 12 Information; 14 Part-time job; 18 Hundred; 19 Lathe; 21 Sever; 22 Spooner. Down: 1 Armed; 2 Airman; 3 Hew; 4 Walnut; 5 Press on; 8 Chimney; 11 Confir; 13 Salutes; 15 Tidier; 16 Orator; 17 Thief; 20 Apt. QUICK - Across: 6 Aqueous; 7 Story; 9 Piety; 10 Arrival; 12 Provocation; 14 Incredulity; 18 Clarity; 19 Droll; 21 Adieu; 22 Succour. Down: 1 Equip; 2 Better; 3 Due; 4 Strict; 5 Creator; 8 Prickle; 11 Avidity; 13 Include; 15 Rarely; 16 Thrice; 17 Flout; 20 Hut.

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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

**Theatre Showstopper from £199.<sup>95</sup>**

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply for all breaks

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions





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**BISELL WAY**  
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**NETHERTON**  
**PURLIN WHARF**  
**£550 pcm\***  
Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking



**SEDGLEY**  
**QUEENS ROAD**  
**£796 pcm\***  
Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Single Garage, Parking for 2 cars, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing



**WORDSLEY**  
**CHAPEL STREET**  
**£425 pcm\***  
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Unfurnished



**COSELEY**  
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**£450 pcm\***  
Purpose built flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking



**HALESOWEN**  
**CLIFTON ROAD**  
**£575 pcm\***  
Semi-Detached House, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Garage, Unfurnished

## Property

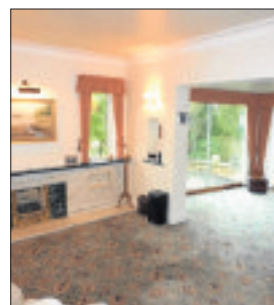
# Imposing detached will appeal to growing family



**AN imposing five-bedroom detached house for sale in Scott Road, Walsall, is in a secluded position.**

It is for sale through Fraser Wood at £698,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it has an L-shaped reception hall, guest cloakroom, extended rear lounge, front dining room, kitchen with fitted breakfast bar, dishwasher and pantry, lobby, WC and stores, plus laundry room. There is a conservatory, first floor balcony closed to form a front study/bedroom. Of the four bedrooms, the master has three fitted wardrobes. Contact Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 [www.fraser-wood.co.uk](http://www.fraser-wood.co.uk)



# Studio apartment was built by David Wilson

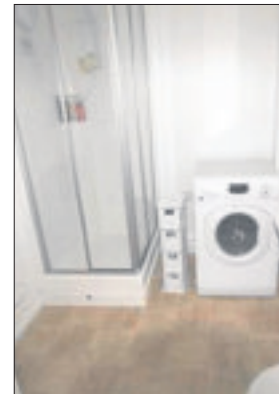
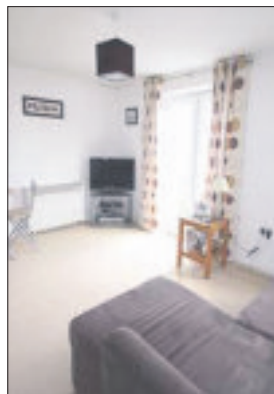


**A STUDIO that was built by David Wilson Homes in 2006 in Attingham Drive, Dudley, is for sale through Billingham Taylor at a reduced price of offers over £50,000.**

Immaculately presented it has a carport beneath and pleasant views over playing fields, a front door opening into a kitchen area with intercom system, an electric stainless steel hob, electric cooker and stainless steel back plate.

The kitchen is part open plan to the main living area which has a Juliet balcony and the multi-purpose utility/shower room has a shower enclosure and suite and plumbing for a washing machine.

For further information contact Billingham Taylor on 01384 234900 or visit the [www.billinghamtaylor.co.uk](http://www.billinghamtaylor.co.uk) website.



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# Three-storey property is immaculately-presented



**A five-bedroomed detached house in David Harman Drive, West Bromwich is immaculately presented.**

It is for sale through Worton Kelly at £329,950. It has a porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility, downstairs WC, conservatory, five bedrooms (en suite master), shower room, central heating and double glazing, a detached garage and front and rear gardens.

The lounge has French doors to conservatory. The dining room has marble tiled floor and kitchen/diner has an integrated electric oven with gas hob and cooker hood, integrated dishwasher and fridge. The conservatory has laminate flooring. Upstairs, bedroom one has fitted wardrobes and an arch to two built-in wardrobes and en suite with a bath and a shower cubicle. Bedroom two and three have fitted wardrobes. Fourth and fifth bedrooms on the second floor.

Contact Worton Kelly on 0121 5885666 or visit [www.wortonkelly.com](http://www.wortonkelly.com)



## Link-detached is in a desirable area



A four-bedroomed link-detached family house in West Park Road, Smethwick lies in a sought after location. It is for sale through Timothy Daniels at £315,000.

It has three reception rooms, a kitchen/diner, downstairs shower room, conservatory, lean to, a bathroom, separate WC, four bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, off road parking, a front lawned garden and a car port and rear garden with lawn, shrubs and a pond. Among the four bedrooms, number one has laminate flooring and a picture rail, number two has built in wardrobes and a picture rail and number three has floorboards.

For further information contact Timothy Daniels on 0121 5573989 or visit [www.timothydaniels.co.uk](http://www.timothydaniels.co.uk)



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# TOWN & COUNTRY

## PROPERTY SERVICES



### GRAFTON GARDENS DUDLEY

A Superb new two bedroom semi detached property situated in a delightful cul-de-sac location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed lawned rear garden and driveway affording useful off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = B DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£600PCM DEPOSIT £700 + FEES



### WILLOWDALE GRANGE WOLVERHAMPTON

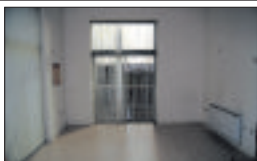
A Two Bedroom Ground floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Open Plan lounge/kitchen, inner hall, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric panel heaters, double glazing and communal grounds with an allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395 DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



A substantial three bedroom detached property close to the heart of Lye with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, carport at the side of the property providing useful off road parking and an enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

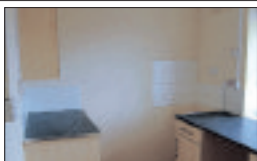
£595PCM DEPOSIT £695 + FEES



### TIMES SQUARE MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented unfurnished one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. Accommodation comprises of: Video entry system, entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM DEPOSIT £595 + FEES



### KNOYLE COURT SCOTTS ROAD

A one bedroom, second floor apartment offering a convenient location within walking distance of Stourbridge Town Centre and accommodation to comprise: reception hall, lounge, double bedroom kitchen and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric central heating and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = G DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:NO

£400pcm -DEPOSIT £500 - FEES



### BLAENWERN DRIVE HALESOWEN

A spacious two bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property also benefits from having storage heating, double glazing, communal gardens and en-bloc garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 + FEES

### KINGS MEWS KING STREET



Brand New One and Two bedroom ground and first floor apartments situated in a popular residential location and within walking distance of Wollaston Village. The accommodation comprises of: Entry phone system, private entrance hall, open plan lounge/kitchen, bedrooms and bathroom or shower room. The properties further boasts electric heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN:NO PETS: NO SMOKING: NO

£395-525PCM DEPOSIT £495-£625 + FEES



### FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented modern two bedroom first floor Apartment situated close to Brierley Hill and the Merry Hill centre. The accommodation comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, electric heating and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS:NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



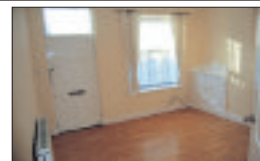
An extremely well presented two bedroom ground floor part furnished apartment, close to all amenities the Merry Hill Centre has to offer. The accommodation comprises of: video entry system, entrance hall, two bedrooms, master with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, bathroom. The property further benefits from electric storage and double glazing. PART FURNISHED (Furniture in the property is 1 double bed sofa, table & chairs, 2 wardrobes). EPC RATING = D DSS:NO CHILDREN: YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£550PCM DEPOSIT £650 + FEES



A spacious two bedroom first floor maisonette with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts electric storage heating, roof terrace and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES



### HOLLY ROAD ROWLEY REGIS

A Two Bedroom End Terrace Victorian property situated in a popular location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas fired central heating, double glazing and a rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING: E DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES

£475PCM- DEPOSIT £575 - FEES



### LOWER HIGH STREET

A well presented one bedroom second floor apartment situated in the heart of Stourbridge Town Centre with accommodation to comprise of: External staircase at the rear of the property to the second floor, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM- DEPOSIT £495 - FEES



A beautifully presented refurbished and spacious one bedroom first floor flat having direct access to Brierley Hill shopping centre. The accommodation comprises of Entrance with staircase to the first floor, first floor landing, lounge, breakfast kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: MAY CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 - FEES



### FAIRFIELD ROAD NETHERTON

A very well presented three bedroom, semi detached family residence in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of: Private entrance hall, lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. The property further benefits from GCH, Off road parking and rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM DEPOSIT £675 + FEES



### LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

A one bedroom first floor Apartment in the centre of Stourbridge Town with accommodation to comprise of: Private entrance hall, lounge with open plan fully fitted kitchen, airing cupboard with plumbing for automatic washing machine, bedroom with en-suite shower room. The property also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395 DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



### LIDDIARD COURT WOLLASTON

A beautifully presented two bedroom second floor over 60's apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance, communal lounge, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, storage heating, communal gardens and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C PETS: No CHILDREN: No DSS: No SMOKERS: No

£525PCM- DEPOSIT £625 - FEES

### WALTERS ROW DUDLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£500PCM Deposit £600 + Fees



### GAUDEN ROAD WOLLESCOTE

A beautifully presented two bedroom apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: L shaped reception hall, lounge, superb refitted kitchen, two bedrooms, separate WC and re-appointed bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and well tended lawned gardens surrounding the development. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM-DEPOSIT £550 + FEES

### DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An attractive modern starter home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, two Bedrooms and Shower Room. The property also benefits from sealed unit Double Glazing, small fore Garden and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£400PCM- DEPOSIT £500 - FEES



### TAMAR RISE AMBLESCOTE

A well presented one bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and built in shower room. The property also benefits from double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£390PCM DEPOSIT £490 + FEES

### HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A well presented one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Private entrance, open plan Lounge/Kitchen being fully carpeted and with oven and hob, Bedroom with built in storage and Bathroom with shower. The property further benefits from double glazing and electric heating. There is allocated parking to the rear of the property. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = G DSS: YES PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 + FEES



### KINGSWAY WOLLASTON

A well presented two bedroom large first floor flat situated close to all local amenities with accommodation to comprise: Reception hall, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO

£360PCM DEPOSIT £460 - FEES

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# Honda Tourer in good shape

By Graham Breeze

**With more and more companies entering the compact estate market, Honda just could not afford to be left behind, so the Civic Tourer was a 'must' for the Japanese brand.**

The British-built Tourer brings a brand of distinctive styling and class-leading utility, while offering an impressive balance between fuel economy and performance.

The Tourer has the same wheelbase as the hatch but is 235mm longer in rear overhang which you would expect to have a detrimental effect on design.

But it actually improves the appearance and gives the car a completely distinctive look, which is important in an age of look-alikes.

Honda was determined the wedge-like profile would not come at the expense of space and surprisingly has managed to create a class-leading 624 litres of boot space, including 117 litres beneath the false floor.

The space has been created by clever positioning of the fuel tank underneath the front seats, allowing the rear seats to be folded flat to reveal 1,668 litres of space.

The Civic Tourer is available with the choice of two engines; the 1.8 i-TEC petrol and the new Earth Dreams Technology 1.6 i-DETEC diesel, and four generously equipped trim levels.

Both engines come with a six-speed manual gearbox, while the petrol car buyers can gear a four-speed torque converter.

The diesel costs up to £1,210 more than

the manual petrol, but is over 60 per cent more fuel efficient, 72.4-74.3mpg, against 43.5-45.6mpg, and also emits far less CO2, 99-103g/km against 146-149 g/km.

The entry level S grade includes features such as Bluetooth hands-free telephone, DAB radio, USB connectivity and 16in alloy wheels.

In addition the SE Plus, the next level up, has rear parking sensors and 17in alloys, whilst SR customers will benefit from the new world-first rear Adaptive Damper System (ADS), front heated seats, HDD navigation and privacy glass.

Those who opt for the top EX grade will receive headlight washer, smart entry and start capability, sunglasses holder, interior blue ambient lighting and Bi-HID headlights with auto levelling.

## Comfortable

Up front is a comfortable place to be with fully-adjustable seats and steering column and the fascia is easily recognised as Honda's with the usual combination of high quality plastics and easy-to-remember switch positions.

Every inch of space is cleverly utilised, meaning front and rear-seat passenger can be comfortably accommodated, but rising glass lines mean rear vision is not the best in sector.

There's no excuse for questioning the handling of this model because Honda has developed a world-first rear Adaptive Damper System, which automatically adjusts the rear suspension damping force, enhancing stability and comfort.

Another first is the option to add Honda's new suite of safety technologies to a C-segment car.

Based on the philosophy of 'safety for



**'Honda was determined the wedge-like profile would not come at the expense of space'**

everyone', it uses a combination of cameras, short-range lidar and radar to deliver safety in all conditions.

The new Driver Assistance Safety Pack is available as a factory-fit option from SE models upwards for £780, with City-Brake Active System, forward collision warning, high beam support system, lane departure warning, traffic sign recognition system, and blind spot information.

Safety Pack Two is only available on EX

Plus models and for an additional £2,500 benefits from all the features in Safety Pack One as well as automatic cruise control and collision mitigation braking, in place of the City Brake Active System.

A comfortable ride and superb handling coupled with the versatile load space and a stunning diesel engine mean Honda will be competitive, but the questions will revolve around pricing, which with an entry level of £20,265, may put some buyers off.



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## Citroen:

62 C3 Picasso 1.6 Exc Auto Beige 10k	£10,995
60 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Airdream Blue 27k	£8,295
10 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Exc Blue 27k	£8,295
60 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Exclusive Blue 20k	£8,995
61 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Grey 14k	£8,995
09 C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI VTR EGS Gold 19k	£8,995
59 C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Silver 12k	£9,995
07 C4 G Piccas 1.6 VTR+ HDI EGS Gold 60k	£5,995
11 C4 G Piccas 2.0 HDI Exc EGS Grey 25k	£12,995
57 C4 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Brown 45k	£6,495
57 C4 Picasso 1.8 VTR+ Grey 47k	£5,495
07 C6 2.7 HDI Lignage Auto Silver 80k	£6,495

## Ford

05 C-Max 1.6 TDCI Zetec Silver 57k	£3,795
05 Focus 1.6 LX Blue 79k	£3,495
09 Focus 1.6 Style Estate Grey 29k	£6,995
09 Fusion 1.4 TDCI Zetec Blue 48k	£5,995

## Nissan

60 Cube 1.6 Kaizen Silver 31k	£6,995
61 Juke 1.6 DIG-T Tekna White 12k	£13,495
60 Note 1.5 DCI N-Tec Red 31k	£7,995
60 Note 1.5 DCI Tekna Silver 29k	£8,295
10 Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto Black 19k	£7,495
60 Qashqai 1.6 Acenta Black 20k	£11,295

## Peugeot

58 207 1.6 S Auto Estate Silver 33k	£5,495
11 3008 1.6 HDI Sport Black 31k	£9,995
61 308 1.6 HDI Access 5dr Vapour Grey 15k	£8,995
58 Horizon 1.4 Silver W/Chair Access Ramp	£5,495

## Renault

60 Gr Scenic 1.5 DCI Priv TomTom Bronze 38k	£7,995
60 Kangoo 1.6 Expression Auto Grey 4k	£6,995
05 Megane 1.4 Dynamique 50k	£2,995
03 Scenic 1.9 DTI Fidji Green 82k	£1,995

## Vauxhall

56 Astra 1.4 SXI 3dr Coupe Blue 56k	£4,795
05 Astra 1.7 CDTi Life Grey 68k	£3,695
60 Astra 2.0 CDTi SRI Auto Grey 16k	£9,995
58 Corsa 1.4 Design Auto Silver 48k	£5,295
62 Meriva 1.4 Active Turbo Black	£9,795
60 Meriva 1.4 SE Turbo 138 Grey 26k	£7,995
60 Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE Auto Blue 26k	£7,795
11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE Auto Brown 30k	£7,995

## Other

54 Mitsubishi L200 2.5TD 4Life 4WD Silver 72k	£5,495
55 Toyota Corolla 1.4 VVTi T2 Silver 72k	£3,995

## Available to Order

60 Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Available to Order From	£8,495
60 Citroen C4 G Piccas 1.6 HDI Available to Order From	£9,995
60 Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec 5dr Available to Order From	£8,495
11 Ford Focus 1.6 Available to Order From	£8,995
60 Nissan Note Man/Auto Available to Order From	£7,695
11 Nissan Qashqai Diesel Available to Order From	£12,495
11 Vauxhall Astra Exclusiv Man/Auto Available to Order From	£8,295
11 Vauxhall Corsa Man/Auto Available to Order From	£7,995
11 Vauxhall Zafira Exclusiv Available to Order From	£8,995

## Reduced to Clear!

08 BMW 525i SE Auto 4dr Green 77k	£9,295	£8,995
05 Ford C-Max 1.6 Zetec Silver 62k	£3,695	£3,295
58 Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec Clim Auto Red 21k	£4,995	£4,495
60 Kia Venga 2 1.6 Auto Silver 11k	£8,495	£8,295
02 Mini One 1.6 Yellow 78k	£3,695	£3,495
02 Peugeot 206 1.1 Style 3dr Black 80k	£1,995	£1,795
60 Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Turbo 118 Silver 24k	£7,495	£6,995

## Retail

56 Astra 1.4 SXI 3dr Coupe Blue 56k	£4,795
05 Astra 1.7 CDTi Life Grey 68k	£3,695
60 Astra 2.0 CDTi SRI Auto Grey 16k	£9,995
58 Corsa 1.4 Design Auto Silver 48k	£5,295
62 Meriva 1.4 Active Turbo Black	£9,795
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02 Peugeot 206 1.1 Style 3dr Black 80k	£1,995	£1,795
60 Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Turbo 118 Silver 24k	£7,495	£6,995

## Retail Now

08 BMW 525i SE Auto 4dr Green 77k	£9,295	£8,995
05 Ford C-Max 1.6 Zetec Silver 62k	£3,695	£3,295
58 Ford Fusion 1.6 Zetec Clim Auto Red 21k	£4,995	£4,495
60 Kia Venga 2 1.6 Auto Silver 11k	£8,495	£8,295
02 Mini One 1.6 Yellow 78k	£3,695	£3,495
02 Peugeot 206 1.1 Style 3dr Black 80k	£1,995	£1,795
60 Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Turbo 118 Silver 24k	£7,495	£6,995



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 <p>06 Reg Fiesta Climate £2995 or £13pw</p>	 <p>07 Reg 207 HDI Sport £4495 or £21pw</p>	 <p>57 Reg Astra 1.4 SXI £4695 or £23pw</p>
 <p>07 Reg 1.2 Vauxhall Corsa £4495 or £21pw</p>	 <p>59 Reg Peugeot 107 £5795 or £27 pw</p>	 <p>07 Reg Peugeot 307 £3795 or £18 pw</p>
 <p>58 Reg Clio 1.5 DCI £4695 or £23pw</p>	 <p>55 Reg Peugeot 407 HDI £2995 or £13pw</p>	 <p>10 Reg Focus 1.6 TDCI £7495 or £35pw</p>
 <p>09 Reg Insignia Sri £5995 or £28pw</p>	 <p>55 Reg Peugeot 307 £2495 or £25pw</p>	 <p>09 Reg Insignia CDTi £6295 or £29pw</p>

Finance Example - Cash Price £4995, Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500, Amount of Credit £4495, Total Amount Payable £5999.20, 60 Monthly Payments of £99.82 or 240 Weekly Payments of £23.04.

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56	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT 3-dr. Met Blue, 59k, Alloys, PAS, AC	£3299
07	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LIFE Met Black, 78k, PAS, EW, AC, CD	£2999
05	ROVER 75 1.8 ESTATE Met Red, Full Leather, 90k, Alloys, PAS, EW	£2499
56	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE 5-dr. 69k, Met Blue, PAS, EW	£2999
06	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 ACTIVE 76k, Met Grey, Alloys, PAS, EW, AC	£2999
57	GRAND SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIC 7 Seats, 62k, Met Gold, Alloys, AC	£3299
04	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1.8 3-dr. Met Silver, PAS, EW, Alloys	£3299
06	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 8 SRi Silver, 60k, Alloys, PAS, EW, AC, CD	£4499
53	X-TYPE JAGUAR 2.1 V6 Silver, 90k, Alloys, PAS, EW, AC, CD	£2199
06	RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS 1.2 2-dr. Silver, 68k, PAS, EW, AC, CD	£2699
06	FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE 3-dr. Silver, 76k, AC, EW, CD	£2999
56	FORD FOCUS 1.6 SPORT 5-dr. Met Blue, Alloys, PAS, EW, AC	£3299
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## Drivetime

# A special edition pick-up gives best of both worlds

Isuzu UK has enhanced the rugged appeal of its award-winning pick-up range with the addition of a special edition, exclusive-to-the-UK model, the Isuzu D-Max Blade. With the new Blade, Isuzu hopes to attract new customers to the brand including those who may not have considered a pick-up vehicle previously.

The new special edition, which goes on sale in April, boasts a long list of unique style enhancements and technology upgrades certain to help the vehicle stand out from the crowd. Based on a premium model from the D-Max range, the new Blade special edition features more than £5,000 worth of additional equipment and yet is available from just £24,995, representing a saving of £1,000 if the accessories were bought separately.

### Rivals

Prices for the new model are £24,995 for the six-speed manual or £25,995 for the five-speed auto, which compares favourably with similarly specced special edition models from Isuzu's nearest rivals.

The head-turning style of the D-Max Blade starts with the bold 18-inch, six-spoke 'Shadow' alloy wheels shod with 255/60 R18 Pirelli Scorpion Zero tyres.

The exterior upgrades continue with a 'Shadow' grey front grille, privacy glass windows, black door and tailgate handles, black roof bars and rear bumper, and heavy-duty side steps.

Each exterior addition creates a striking contrast to the two available body colours, solid 'Splash White' or mica 'Cosmic Black'.

The Isuzu D-Max Blade also comes standard with an under-rail bed liner for added practicality while customers can then choose between an Aeroklas hard top complete with internal light or a Mountain Top Black Roller Top Cover which is unique to the Blade and cannot be purchased as a separate accessory.



Whichever option customers choose, the tops come supplied and fitted within the on the road price.

The high-value additions to the five-seat pick-up continue inside. Automatic climate control and premium black leather seats – which have been factory upgraded for 2014 and are heated in the front – will cosset Blade occupants.

Customers of the new Blade will also benefit from DAB digital radio via a state-of-the-art Pioneer AV-IC-F950 6.1-inch touchscreen navigation system, complete with integrated rear safety camera. The Pioneer system offers an enhanced audio experience

and convenience over the already class leading 'surround' system found in Yukon and Utah models.

The Isuzu D-Max Blade is matched to the powerful-yet-efficient 2.5-litre twin-turbo diesel engine, producing 163 PS and 400 Nm of torque, while still returning a segment best fuel economy of 38.2 mpg (combined).

The running gear has also been carried over by Isuzu, meaning customers benefit from a towing capacity of 3.5-tonnes and 1-tonne payload.

The D-Max Blade comes with the company's pioneering five-year / 125,000 mile warranty.

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## Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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**2 Leisure Time**  
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**3 Home & Services**

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## 4 Pets & Animals

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### guns & dogs

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### pets corner

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**Sox** - Staffie, 3yrs, female.  
**Alfie** - X breed, 4yrs, male.  
**Lady** - Husky X, 2yrs, female.  
**Stan** - Staffie X, 2yrs, male.  
**Foxy** - Husky X, 9mths, male.  
**Bella** - 2yrs, female.  
**Snowy** - Staffie, 2yrs, female.  
**Pete** - Staffie, 2yrs, male.  
**Rex** - Boxer X Staffie, 1yr, male.  
01299 269181 or 07564 262371 www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk

### TOBY

Is a Collie cross Mongrel ? Despite being neglected and not treated well he is still a happy Friendly dog.

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We would like a forever home for this little chap and we would help with any further vets bills. Can you give this lovely boy a home??

For more information 01746 780434.

**UMBRELLA COCKATOO** two years old, hand reared, with cage. £650. 07577 579964.

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## 5 Business & Farming

### business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

### business directory

### accountants

ACCOUNTS, BOOK KEEPING, PAYROLL, VAT New start-ups welcome. Phone Clover on: 01384 459714 or 07715 510749.

## 6 Property

### properties wanted

**I BUY HOUSES!** Local investor pays 10k more. Call Alex 07729 297901

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Immaculate condition.  
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number plate included, excellent  
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miles, (2008) £3,000.  
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**NISSAN NOTE** VISIA, 09, 1.4,  
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miles, excellent condition,  
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**FORD PUMA**, X reg, silver, fsh,  
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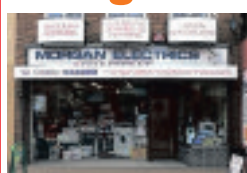
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**SUE** 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out eat, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049

**ANGIE** attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641

**SARAH**, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with chat. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408291

**KATHERINE** 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565

**PAULINE** attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039

**ANNA**, busy mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

**JEN** attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

**ARE** you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637

**NINA**, black beauty, looking for discreet adult times with man any age. Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box 409091

**29YR** old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577

**YOUNG** early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

**SAM**, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1951 Box 408297

**CAROL** 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721

**CLAIRE** voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627

**LORRAINE** 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

**MICHELLE** 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415

**TAYLOR** 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911

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**WENDY** 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499

**73YR** old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331

**NICKY** bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for friendship. Ltr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479

**KAREN** 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461

**LIZ** 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395

**ZOE** 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719

**JANE** attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715

**JILL**, 50, attractive, 5ft blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105

**ATTRACTIVE** professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good times in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895

**ELAINE** attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

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**ABI** creative free spirited lady enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTM well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409723

**MARGARET** OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925

**ATTRACTIVE** 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955

**Hi I'm Pam**, kindly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933

**ABBA** girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151

**NEETA** Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101

**Hi I'm Jo**, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089

**SUSIE** 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877

**BABS** 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, adult, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943

**BUBBLY** 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859

**JOANNA** 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408865

**MARIA** gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733

**Kim** attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408485

**TAYLOR** attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311

**BETHANY** 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408255

**KIRSTY** blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259

**KATH** blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955

**TRACY** slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419

**SHARON** very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409253

**MID** naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

**ANITA** very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505

**FEMALE** many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537

**28YR** old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639

**MIXED** raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gift, 30-40 for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429

**68YR** old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413

**BLACK** female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787

**JENNY** single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285

**CHRIS** blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615

**ATTRACTIVE** female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

**LITTLE** bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

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**62YR** old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

**CAROL** 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853

**SUE** attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021

**CURVY** Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603

**SLIM** active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693

**ANNABELLA** board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449

**SUE** 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019

**NICKY** loving caring gorgeous fun young lady who loves swimming, dancing and lots more, seeking male for text chats and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407459

**PAM** 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851

**LOVING** caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 4ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

**MANDY** divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469

**NICKY** 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possess the ability to fall in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485

**MICHELLE** lonely singleton, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501

**HEATHER** larger than life, cuddly built lady, scrubs up pretty well, employed, OHAC, GSOH, looking for good times with willing male, fun times guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407307

**TRACY** 35yr old blonde petite single mum, WLTM tall male for nights out, text chats and hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407215

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**GOOD** looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sight seeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great fun with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765

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**MALE** WLTM pear shaped lady, 50-65. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411019

**PAUL** 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411099

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**LUCIA** 67, 5ft 5ins, seeking some one for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410375

**JOSEPH** attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267

**SLIM** attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261

**PETE** 6ft 1ins, body builder, likes kick boxing, daughter, seeking female, 30-40 for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410245

**MALE</**



# Brown's header seals the deal

**Stourbridge 2 Biggleswade Town 1**  
FOR the second successive match, Gary Hackett's men had to come from behind to claim the three points.

Stourbridge found themselves trailing inside two minutes of the restart as Brett Donnelly shot into the top corner of the net.

Stourbridge got back on level terms on 58 minutes as Louis Harris fed Sean Geddes on the right and he lifted a ball in looking for Kayelden Brown and Biggleswade centre-half Steve Gentle inadvertently glanced a header beyond Ian Brown for an own goal.

Four minutes later the Waders almost regained the lead with Allinson seeing his 20-yard free-kick hit Dean Coleman's right-hand upright.

Stourbridge forged ahead on 67 minutes with a right-wing corner by Ben Billingham being flicked on by Will Richards.

Kayelden Brown stooped to head home at the far post and they held their slender advantage to the end although the hosts suffered a blow just before the final whistle when they lost Richards with suspected ankle ligament damage.

# Check out these wins for players

THIS week was another good week for Stourbridge.

The Wolverhampton Division Three team became champions without playing. They needed to beat Mercia to clinch the title but they defaulted.

Three adjourned games against South Birmingham 2 A were played and the 2½-½ win was secured to gain a place in the Terrill Trophy final. The second team are in the Homer Final. The club also expect to have 16 players in the Humphreys Final.

Three reserves beat Walsall Kipping in Wolverhampton Division One. Stourbridge player and grandmaster Keith Arkell won the 14th European Senior 50+ Championship.

# Tivs take the spark out of Dynamo

**Shepshed Dynamo FC 1 Tivdale FC 3**  
SHEPshed started the better and should have been two or three up when they did open the scoring on 28 minutes. After just six minutes Tom Cooper-Richards had an effort scrambled off the line.

Cooper-Richards then fired an effort well wide on 18 minutes and then his strike partner Steve Chaplin had a header cleared. The visitors had their first threat on goal in the 26th minute when a Karl Edwards shot was saved by Shepshed keeper Ryan Thacker and two minutes later Shepshed took a deserved lead.

## Football

The lively Alun Webb took advantage of a Luke Paskin slip, cut inside and laid the ball off to Cooper-Richards who this time made no mistake in firing past Tivdale keeper Tim Beech.

The setback stirred the visitors into action and they proceeded to have their best spell of the game. First of all Tivdale defender Mark Smith met a Leigh Downing corner perfectly but he headed straight into the arms of Thacker. Then Nathan Waite

had an effort saved by him. The equaliser came on 42 minutes when Thacker produced a great double save to deny Waite and Ryan Winwood. Winwood then hit the post and Waite was on hand to tap home the rebound.

Tivdale were now on a roll and were unlucky not to go into the break in the lead when a David Bellis just went wide of the post. Again it was Shepshed who started the better and should have added to their score through Jake Lever, Cooper Richards and a Chaplin header that was well saved by Beech. At the other end Tivdale were al-

ways dangerous and skipper Richard Hucklefield brought out another great save from Thacker. Beech later denied Cooper-Richards in what was now turning into a very good game

With the game moving into the last 10 minutes and on a knife edge Shepshed defender Lois Guest passed the ball back to Thacker who with Downing bearing down on him made a complete hash of his clearance and Downing was left with an open goal and he side footed home.

In the 88th minute Tivdale made it three with, Downing's second..

# Saxons claim vital win in drive for promotion

**Luctonians 15 Stourbridge Saxons 20**  
**A LATE revival by Luctonians wasn't enough to deny a bonus point victory for a workmanlike Saxons' performance at Mortimer Park.**

With just four games remaining and their rivals for promotion also gaining bonus point victories, Saturday's home fixture against third place Darlington Mowden Park assumes epic proportion and looks likely to be decisive for both sides.

The Saxons played into the fresh breeze in a scrappy, error-strewn first half during which Lucs took an second minute lead with a Will Burton penalty.

Jamie Hearn was unable to claw back the advantage when his penalty attempt flew wide. Though under early pressure in the scrums, the Saxons' pack started to dominate towards the end of the half, bossing the contact area and pressurising the Lucs defence, which started to cough up penalties and eventually saw scrum half Ben Williams yellow carded for killing the ball.

The Saxons' kicked for the corner and after a series of drives, flanker Nigel Mukarati drove over in the corner. With Burton missing a late penalty attempt the Saxons went in with a narrow 5-3 half time lead.

The wind swung round to the north, denying the Saxons' the second half advantage and forcing them to run the ball. Lucs conceded a penalty for side entry. It was kicked to the corner and though the initial surge was held out the arrival of the midfield backs gave the maul fresh momentum and Mukarati was driven over

## Rugby

for his second try. A loose touch kick enabled Lucs to run from deep, but an attempted offload went loose and was gathered by lock Ben Hughes.

The Saxons countered down the right, where Nathan Bressington was held up just short but was able to recycle the ball. Pete White moved it left to stretch the defences for full back Tom Jarvis to squeeze over in the corner.

Lucs upped their game and hit back on the hour when No8 Brad Talbot barged over in the corner after some slack Saxons' defending.

Hughes gathered the restart kick, launching a sweeping set of Saxons' moves that were only held out by Lucs' winger Drew Cheshire killing the ball and earning himself 10 minutes in the sin bin. From a kick and drive flanker Eji Uzoigwe found Bressington on the wing to secure the bonus point fourth try.

A late revival by Lucs caused alarm bells to ring and Mukarati was sin binned for killing the ball before the hosts earned a penalty try.



Man of the Match Nigel Mukarati takes on Luctonians defenders during what proved to be a crucial game

# Casuals force Lye to share the points

**Lye Town 1 W-ton Casuals 1**  
FOR the second time this season Wolverhampton Casuals denied West Midlands League Premier Division leaders Lye Town maximum points the first game ended in a 2-2 draw.

Lye unbeaten at home were in for a shock as Casuals went in front in the second minute.

Lye's keeper Sam Pearson pushed a Tyrone Clarke free kick onto a post and Matt Dodd was first to react to force the rebound home from five yards.

Casuals held onto their slender lead despite some heavy pressure from the hosts for the rest of the first half.

Lye drew level in the 51st minute James Spray scoring from the penalty spot after Scott Gennard had been fouled by JJ Melligan.

Casuals had to thank keeper Stevie Taylor with three fine saves from Spray, Matthew Johnson and then pushing a powerful rising shot from Spray over the bar as the home side threatened to go in front.

This highly entertaining game was marred in the 75th minute when Nicky Pugh suffered serious injuries to his arm and shoulder.

# Club gives lessons on how to run

WITH little action at the weekend it was a quiet one for Dudley Kingswinford Running Club and gave members a chance to catch their breath before their Beginners Course starts this week.

Anyone who has been inspired by stories of club members and their achievements can start their own journey at 7pm today (Thursday) at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club, Swindon Road, Wall Heath.

The 10-week course, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, costs of £25 and includes coaching. The idea is to get people running with others of similar abilities in a friendly group environment culminating in completing a 5k race in June.

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**Spark out**  
Tivs are electric  
against Dynamo  
**Page 39**

**Vital victory**  
Saxons have promo-  
tion in their sights  
**Page 39**



email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

## Enville B produce an upset for A side

**Enville A (80-5) lost to Enville B (81-2) with an over remaining**

THE bookies and Pedmore will be delighted with this upset as the A team in second place and odds-on favourites were upstaged and definitely outplayed by the B team newcomers.

Given the B sides previous outing when they were dismissed for 47 this might have come as a surprise to them too, and no doubt the match was far from over as they went to bat chasing only 80.

But they approached the task sensibly, just 1 a ball required, James Willis (28 no) and Matt Grainger (24) providing the start needed with 64 for the first wicket. A second wicket followed to jangle the nerves, but Chris Bate and Graham Roberts saw the B side take bragging rights and put clear water between the A side and Pedmore.

In the Envile A innings the bowlers returned some impressive figures, Dan Such (0-13), James Willis (0-12) being very mean in their combined 6 overs, while Carl Bust got 2-22 in his spell of slow spin. Jono Howells (25) and a late cameo from Ben Shorter (19) were the 'A' team scorers.

**Oldswinford (102-3) lost to Hagley (104-1) in the penultimate over.**

## Heathens are season ready

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger says his side have plenty in reserve for a successful season.

The Heathens launch their home programme back at Wolverhampton on Tuesday when they face Coventry in the Travel Plus Trophy.

And Pottinger believes the signings of Matt Williamson and Danny Phillips could prove crucial as the club look to defend their National League clean sweep. He said: "As we know, having at least one strong reserve is vital to any successful team but we feel that in Danny Phillips and Matt Williamson we've got two."

"We were slightly surprised Mildenhall didn't pick up Danny Phillips after he guested for them a few times last season so when we found out he was available we snapped him up straight away."

## Tipton let two-goal lead slip to share points

LOUGHBOROUGH 3 Tipton 3

Tipton forged into a 3-1, unassailable lead it seemed, but the Students threw caution to the wind in the closing 20 minutes. In only the third minute visiting keeper and Man of the Match James Pemberton was called into action in turning a full-blooded drive by James Winchester over the top. Just five minutes more had elapsed when the Students took the lead Winchester again to the fore when he reacted quickest to control Keiran Kenlock's cross and leave the exposed Pemberton with no chance.

A 13th minute corner, conceded under

### Football

pressure by Joe Rogers was headed clear by Tipton's Lee Wherton.

However, the game undertook a twist in favour of the Black Country club when Andy Dicken robbed home skipper, Jack Beckett to set up an opportunity for Ben Hadley whose well-placed ground hugging drive was too good for home keeper, Hazzlett, the ball zipping just inside the left hand post to tie up the scores.

Tipton were enthused with much greater commitment, this bearing fruit in the 25th

minute when Hadley, again, profited by nudging the ball over the home goal line after the keeper could do no more than parry Mensah Kinch's drive.

The Students began the second half with much more vigour, Wherton, Gator and Chris Waterhouse all being extended to deny the threats. After Tipton's Marvin Nisbett had threatened with a thrusting run in the 51st minute, visiting keeper, Pemberton starred by repelling two strong assaults.

Kinch thereafter tested the home keeper before giving way to sub Jordan Archer who

made an almost immediate impact for Tipton leaving full-back Miniham trailing in his wake before driving home to give Tipton a 3-1 lead.

It could have been game over but not a bit of it for Loughborough found untapped sources of energy and skill unluckily failing to reduce the arrears when a sharp break down the right opened up the visitors with Kenlock driving into the side netting

Questionable defending by Tipton was smartly punished by Kenlock before Tristan Dunkley tied up the scores at 3-3 on 77 mins.

## Swim club makes a big splash

HALESOWEN swimmers competed at the Worcester County Championship over three weekends producing impressive performances.

More than 50 swimmers from the club competed in nearly 400 events with seven going on to compete in 29 Championship finals. The swimmers produced an incredible 14 senior, 14 junior and 1 age group County titles and with 32 age group event winners, Halesowen swimmers enjoyed a very successful Championships.

Stand out Halesowen swimmers were Chloe Finch, Josh Bradley and Mark Laing who between them grabbed nearly half of all the Championship titles on offer.

Chloe Finch was impressive and secured seven senior titles and an amazing 12 junior titles. Josh Bradley won seven senior titles.

Mark Laing, aged 14, won two under-15 junior titles.

In the overall age group competition, Lauren Hill won the age 13 group, with runners-up in their age groups Mark Laing, James Cuthbert, Kate Morrice and age nine newcomer Jacob Bailey.

## Early bird sales flying at Wolves

WOLVES' promotion push has been reflected in a 14 per cent rise in Early Bird season ticket renewals.

A total of 10,308 supporters have bought their seats for next season, a rise of 1,272 on the figure this time last year. That figure represents an 88 per cent renewal rate, with the scheme open to 11,770.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, March 27

# HAT-TRICK LUKE IS GLASSBOYS HERO

Stourbridge 3 Cambridge City 2

**GLASSBOYS striker Luke Benbow fired Gary Hackett's men to a vital victory with a hat-trick of goals.**

They produced an energetic display and served up their best home performance since the turn of the year in a match that they really needed to win to remain in the play-off mix.

Stourbridge grabbed a deserved lead with 31 minutes gone. Ben Billingham fed Benbow, who switched the ball out to Kyle Haynes and his low cross from the right was deflected into the path of Benbow and he drilled a rising shot past keeper Zac Barrett from close range.

Eleven minutes into the second half Stourbridge doubled their advantage with a long, kick downfield from keeper Dean Coleman being glanced on by the head of Kayelden Brown and although the ball was running away from the goal, Benbow produced an excellent finish, striking a shot on the half-volley.

### Angled

On 75 minutes Kelvin Bossman should have pulled a goal back for the visitors when Adam Marriott spread the ball wide to Josh Beech on the right and he stood a deep cross up towards the far post where Bossman put his header the wrong side of the upright from just a few yards out.

To rub salt into the wounds, Stourbridge immediately scored at the other end as Coleman's goal-kick bounced through to Benbow and he took the chance early to beat Barrett's dive with

### Football

his low shot and complete his hat-trick.

It was nearly four on 80 minutes as Brown found Sean Geddes and his pass enabled Benbow to attack the right-hand side of the area before pulling the ball back to Brown, but his shot was touched round the post by Barrett.

In the 86th minute a 25-yard snap-shot from Marriott drew a good diving save from Coleman away to his left, but he was beaten on 89 minutes after Kristian Ramsey-Dickson misjudged the flight of the ball in the air and Bossman was able to capitalise and release Marriott.

He buried the ball past Coleman.

Four minutes into stoppage time, a defensive mix-up allowed a long goal-kick from Barrett to run on and put sub Andrew Phillips through.

He was fouled in the area by Ramsey-Dickson for a penalty, which Marriott despatched for his second goal, but barely had the game re-started when the referee blew for full-time and Stourbridge could reflect on a satisfying victory.

## Youth team win secures floodlit Premier title



Stourbridge celebrate after their 6-1 victory which secured them the Midland Floodlit Youth League Premier Division South title for 2013-14. Picture - Will Kilpatrick

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